Hiſtoire Des Larrons,

OR THE

HISTORY

OF

THEEVES.

Written in French, and Tranſlated out of the Originall,

By PAUL GODWIN.

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The Preface to the Reader.

ALthough that Licurgus *the Law-maker of the* Lacedemoniãs *was a great Stateſ-man, and obtained an immortall glorie by the Lawes and Statutes which he left unto the* Spartans. *Yet I finde that he was very faulty in pemitting his Citizens to live in continuall robberie; for what was this, but to nouriſh the fire of diſſention, by which hee might have ſet on fire his new erected Common-wealth; and indeed there needed the courage of* Theſeus, *and*

the ſtrength of Hercules *t*
purge a kingdome infected wit
the ſwarme of ſuch people, for i
is a poiſon which (as ſaith th
Poet)

Latius & latius vires acquirit eundo.

It is like unto rivers, which (the farther they runne from their fountaine) the more they ſwell and inlarge themſelves.

But before I repreſent unto you the divers ſtratagems which theſe Rake-hells uſually put in practiſe to gain their living, I wil firſt ſhew you their originall, it being no new thing ſince men began to be wicked: and ſurely this vice muſt be very old, ſince the heathen gods ſometimes exerciſed the ſame trade: For Lucian *(in his Dialogue of* Apollo*)*

and

and Vulcan) relates that Mercurie was one of the subtilleſt theeves that ever lived, for hee was ſcarce out of his ſhell, when hee ſtole away the tooles of Vulcan, he made what ever he found in his way his owne: and one day having overcome Cupid at the Lute, as Venus came to imbrace him, and congratulate his victorie, he ſlilie ſtole from her that admirable girdle whereof Homer maketh ſuch eſteeme: another time, he by the ſweetneſſe of his muſick ſo charmed Apollo, whiles hee kept the Kine of Admetus, that he fell aſleep, and in the mean time ſtole away his herd, (wherein you may note how blinde the ancients were in their belief, to worſhip a cow-herd and a theef for gods) nay ever Jupiter could not keep himſelf from the ſlights of this theef, for he ſtole from

him his Scepter, and would no doubt have carried away his Thunderbolt had it not been too hot: wherefore Homer in the Hymne which hee made in his praise, calls him (Arcon Philyteon) the Prince of Theeves; and indeed it is a thing very remarkable, that there is no vice which hath not been authorised by gods, to the end that the Ancients might not be scrupelous in imitating their actions, which was the devils policie to draw men to be his followers, by introducing (by the means of false Gods) vice in stead of vertue, and most commonly making use of things accounted sacred, to make his poison to bee swallowed the more easilie; for who would not have stole his neighbours goods, since god Mercurie himself was of the trade, or who was there among them, who esteemed

eſteemed it not an honour to follow the ſteps of ſo brave a Champion?

—cui fas per limen utrumq; .
Solus habet geminoque facit
commercia mundo:

as ſaith Claudian, *like Maſter, like ſervant; ſuch a Prince, ſuch a ſubject; If the Gods in times paſt were Theeves, it muſt needs bee that their worſhippers muſt follow their example: and wee have ſeene the effects thereof; for during the ſpace of foure or five thouſand yeeres, ſince that* Nimrod *by an inſupportable arrogancie placed the firſt ſtone in the tower of* Babel, *the world hath been full of nothing but confuſion, murder, and theft. The* Aſſyrians *ſpoiled and ranſacked all their neighbour countreys, to lay the foundation of their Monarchie; but it proved no other then*

the

the preparation of a Trophee for the Medes, *who invading them, ſpoiled them of all that which they had ranſaked from others: The* Medes *injoyed for a time their ſpoiles, but they were ſoone ſtript by the* Perſians, *thus one nation robbed another, untill that the* Romans *became Maſters of the whole. And what happened at length, even after revolutions of ages, this great* Colloſſus (*whoſe ſhadow ſtrook a feare into the inhabitants of the remoteſt Regions*) *was diſmembred by peece-meale and at length remained as naked as* Eſops *bird, and it was according to reaſon, that the end ſhould bee correſpondent to the beginning; for ſeeing this famous Republique had not its originall and increaſe, but by theeveries, rapes and maſſacres under* Romulus *and others; there was no*

other

other likelihood but that it would return to its first originall.

But yet I finde some mention of theeves before all these, for the Egyptians were the first after the deluge that began to rob, a custome which hath been so long continued by this Nation, that they are yet seen to run by troopes from kingdome to kingdom, to tell fooles their fortunes, & were it not that men looke more unto their hands then their feet, they would make a horrible havock in villages and solitary houses.

The barbarous Scythes, by the report of Herodottus, were also very subject to this wicked vice. for they thought all goods to bee common, both to men, and other living creatures, but especially food, for they made it no scruple to intrude themselves into any mans house, where they might find meat

meat wherewith to satisfie their hungry appetites.

But the Lydians were yet much more rude, for they held it for an infallible Maxime, that it was not fit that a man should depart from any place without furnishing himself with something; and it may well be said, that there there are two many Collonies of this race planted among us, for it is too apparent, that the one half of the world robs the other; the greater theeves robbing the lesse: For this is so miserable an age, that the great ones rejoice at the tottering of the lesse; and many are seene standing under the Gallowes to be as spectatours of the execution of others, who have more often deserved death then they have committed thefts: and though I might here take occasion to speake much of the

the great theeves in the Commonwealth, yet conſidering, that Quæ ſupra nos nihil ad nos, *I will forbeare, and come unto the leſſe, with ſorrow that I muſt leave one of the Principall parts of this Hiſtorie untouched: or, know therefore, courteous Reader, that for thy good I have ſet forth this various, and pleaſant Hiſtorie, which will ſhew thee, how thou mayeſt avoid many dangers, and how others more wickedly inclined, may (by the puniſhments which theſe reap as juſt rewards for their evill courſes) be led from the precipice of perdition, into the ſafe way of vertue and honeſtie.*

A Table of the Chapters contained in this Booke.

Chap. 1. *AN Inn-keeper cheated.* pag. 1.

Chap. 2. *A notable trick put upon a Phyſitian.* p. 12.

Chap. 3. *A Tragi-Comedy acted by two Theeves.* p. 18.

Chap. 4. *A Cheaters ſelfe invitation.* p. 28.

Chap. 5. *The notable Impudence of* Amertis. p. 36.

Chap. 6. *A Merchant cheated by a pretended Churchwarden.* p. 45.

Chap. 7. Polidamors *entertainement among Theeves.* p. 53.

Chap. 8. *A prodigious Hiſtory of the Treacheries of* Valeſio. p. 67.

Chap. 9. *A young Cutpurſe made free.* p. 91.

Chap. 10. *The life and death of little-*Iames. p. 99.

Chap. 11. *The ſtory of* Pallioly, *and his Choak-peare.* p. 123.

Chap.

Chap. 12. *The wicked ſervant.* p. 135.
Chap. 13. *The dangerous adventures and miraculous eſcapes of* Colyrias. p. 161.
Chap. 14. *One often cheated.* p. 173.
Chap. 15. *A ſtrange Robbery of a Merchants ſhop.* p. 183.
Chap. 16. *The cunning eſcape of a Cheater out of Priſon.* p. 188.
Chap. 17. *A Theefe caught in a Trap.* p. 193.
Chap. 18. *The ſtory of* Amboiſe la Forge, *a notable Cut-purſe.* p. 201.
Chap. 19. *A Relation of the notable cheats performed by one* Mutio. p. 221.
Chap. 20. *A facetious Relation, how one* Maillard *cheated a Goldſmith of a rich piece of Plate.* p. 238.
Chapt. 21. *The multiplicity of Theeves.* p. 263.
Chap. 22. *A facetious Relation of a* Pariſian *Theef, condemned to the Gallies at* Marſeilles. 269.
Chap. 23. *The gratefull Theef.* p. 294

THE

THE HISTORY OF THEEVES.

CHAP. I.

Of an Inne-keeper Cheated.

DEſpaire often conſtraineth us to imbrace Actions which we would reject, as pernitious to our ſoules health, if Paſſion blinded not our Senſes; but we are for the moſt part ſo wed-

ded to our owne perverſe wills, that we wil not vouchſafe to deliberate with reaſon, but raſhly doe whatſoever is preſented unto us by our vaine imaginations. This is the cauſe that man cannot ſo eaſily ſee what he is, nor whence he draweth his Originall.

At that time when as Peace began to flowriſh in this Kingdome, and that the fury of a long warre was appeaſed. It happened that five or ſixe caſhiered Souldiers, not knowing what ſhifts to make, departed out of *Paris*, reſolving among themſelvs, that ſithence unconſtant Fortune ſeemed to deny them ſufficient Commodities for their ſuſtenance, they would uſe

uſe their greateſt cunning and utmoſt endeavor to procure it. Theſe people that before had plenty of all things, could not now brook a ſcarcity, and therefore reſolved to make a correſpondency to their former fortunes, though by any indirect meanes, neither were they long to ſeek: For as it often comes to paſſe, that when men perceive themſelvs ſinking into the deepeſt miſery, even then they finde out a meanes of reliefe.: So now Neceſſity dictates unto theſe cheating fellows, an invention by which they for a time ſhift off theſe hungry wants which were now ready to oppreſſe them. They in their way chanced to meet with a youth about

the age of tenne or twelue yeeres, who had been sent from about twelue Leagves distant from thence with a Letter to one in *Paris*, whom they staying, one among the rest (intending to practise his wit and to recreate both himselfe and companions by an invention) adviseth them to cloathe him after the best manner they could possibly, and telleth them, that as for the rest, he doubted not but that he should so well act his part, that they should all fare the better for his enterprize. They all follow his direction, and at length by their joynt endeavours, they so well apparell him that one would have taken him for some young Lord, although there was a kinde of constraint

ſtraint in his behaviour, and that by his actions he ſometimes ſhewed of what ſtocke he was. The tree is knowne by the fruit, and the leafe partly manifeſts the kinde and the quality of the ſtalke. For Generoſity appeareth as well by the outward behaviour, as it doth by Vertue which is the inward ornament, and whoſoever will cloathe a Ruſtick in the habite of a Gentleman, ſhall notwithſtanding finde in him the effects of his rude breeding and incivility. This youth being thus reveſted, hatched conceits which lifted him up even unto the clouds, he already thought himſelfe one of the great Lords of *France*; yet for all his high conceits, they

become his Lawgiver; and after mountaines of golden promiſes, they command him upon paine of death, not to ſpeake to any one upon any occaſion whatſoever more then theſe two words *Etiam* and *Maxime*. Having thus grounded their intended deceit, they went to take up their lodgings in one of the beſt Inns about *Paris*, where being arrived, they fained themſelvs to be of the houſe of the extraordinary Ambaſſadour of *Holland*, and told the Hoſt, that without faile, within foure or five dayes the ſaid Ambaſſadour would paſſe that way; and for an aſſured teſtimony of what they ſpake, they ſhewed unto him the young Gentleman, ſaying, that he was Nephew un-

unto the Ambaſſadour: The Maſter of the houſe (who deeply conſidered not what they ſpake) beleeving them, entertained them very ſumptuouſly with whatſoever they demanded: and the notice he tooke during their abode in his houſe, that all of them in generall were (ſubmiſſively) reſpective unto their young Maſter (whom they blazed to be the Ambaſſadours Minion) made him and the reſt of the Inne verely beleeve, that the reverence which they ſhewed unto this youth was unfained, and what they ſpake was undoubtedly true.

Five dayes were now paſt wherein there was no newes of the Ambaſſador, but what they themſelves made in the

houſe in the midſt of their Jollities and Banquets. The Hoſt knew not what to think of it, but not being able to ſound the depth of their myſteries, he cauſeth his doubt to reflect upon the reverence which he ſaw was yeelded unto this new made Gentleman; this withholdeth him from any outward ſhew of ſuſpition, and feedes him with the hope of the future comming of the Ambaſſadour. At length eight dayes being pleaſantly ſlipped away, and no Ambaſſadour appearing, our Vagabond Souldiers begin to dreame that it was now time for them to take the ayre. And to finiſh their well projected Enterpriſe, one of them ſendeth forth his Maſters Lackey

key in ſight of the Hoſt, to give notice when the Ambaſſadour approached, (but he kept not his promiſe in comming, for he was not yet parted from his houſe (and had before privately commanded him to returne by three of the clocke the next morning, to give them notice that their Maſter was drawing neere unto the City. This Gullery was well practiſed, the Lackey failed not to come at the appointed houre, and knocking at the Gate, delivered unto them the welcome newes of their maſters approach: Whereupon they all ſtart up with ſpeed, and having commanded that their horſes ſhould be prepared, the Maſter of the Inne ariſeth, calleth up

his ſervants, and all of them confidently ſettle themſelvs in expectation of the Ambaſſadour: when their horſes were ready, one of them came boldly unto the Hoſt, and told him, that they muſt of neceſſity goe meet their Maſter, that he muſt prepare a breakfaſt againſt their returne, which would be within two or three houres at furtheſt, and in the meane time they would leave their yong Maſter with him: ſo they all parted and forraged the Countrey, having merrily recreated themſelves at the expence of their Hoſt.

In the meane time they prepare all the Lodgings for the Ambaſſador; but noone being already paſt, and hee not appearing, the Hoſt begins

gins to perceive the deceit; He therefore aſcends up into the Chamber, but was much amazed when he ſaw there no other then a Countrey Clowne in an old Hurden ſuite; the Hoſt ſtraitly examineth him, and demands who he is, who thoſe were that came to lodge in his Inne? to which he anſwereth not a word, and hardly could he draw from him, more then theſe two words, *Etiam* and *Maxime*: the Hoſt notwithſtanding who had been at extraordinary coſt in entertaining them, could not be ſatisfied with Latine, he takes therefore my young Clowne, and with the ſmarting blowes of good rods teacheth him French; thus paſſed their de-

deceit, their well acted Comedy, thus ending in a Tragedy.

Chap. II.

A notable trick put upon a Physician.

THere lived in the famous City of *Paris*, a wise and renowned Physician named *Alcander*, who had shewed himself fortunately expert in divers Cures, where it seem'd that humane Art had not sufficient force to give a remedy; the fame whereof made him then much sought after. Now, to enter into the course of our History, you must understand, that as this Physician went

went to viſite the ſicke in divers parts of the City, one of the moſt notable and boldeſt Theeves which were then in *Paris*, conceived that he ſhould make a very good booty if he could entrap him, for he was reputed a very rich and wealthy man, by reaſon of his continuall practiſe: this Conceit breed a Reſolution, and this Reſolution brought forth its effect; for on a Saturday about nine a clock at night, as the ſaid *Alcander* went to receive ſeverall ſums of money from divers houſes where he had finiſhed particular Cures; this fellow who could not have choſen out a fitter opportunity, nor a more favourable houre for his deſigne, nor yet a more

ſub-

ſubtill device to overreach *Alcander*, being confident that he had then good ſtore of Monies about him, and that he could not eſcape him; Having long attended his returne in a little bye ſtreet, and at length perceiving him afarre off, comes unto him in great haſte, and with a fained voyce ſaith unto him, Sir, it is long ſince I have been ſo happy as to ſee you, yet I live not farre hence, and now your experience which I have ſtill admired, hath cauſed me to importune you to viſite my wife, who for this ten or twelve dayes hath had ſuch a Flux of her belly, that ſhe cannot finde any meanes to ſtop it, the longer it continueth the more it increaſeth; I have there-

therefore made bold to come unto you; I came even now from your houſe, where I ſtayed expecting you for at leaſt an houre; I humbly intreat you Sir, to doe me ſo much favour as to come with me: The ſeeming ſincerity of his words, would have drawne on the moſt diſtruſtfull of the world to have beleeved them: *Alcander* who was accuſtomed to be induced more by gaine then faire words, affoorded him this friendly and comfortable anſwere; Sir, God forbid that I ſhould refuſe to doe my endeavour in that little skill which I have in the knowledge and practiſe of Phyſicke; If I can effect any thing for the good of the Gentlewoman your wife, I will

will attend you thither with as good a will as my charge requireth. Upon theſe complements this notable Wag brings him from ſtreete to ſtreet into his lodging, where having ſhut the doore, he takes in the one hand a Piſtoll, and in the other hand a great purſe, and turning himſelfe furiouſly towards the Phyſician, Behold here (ſaith he) my wife which hath for a long time been tormented with the Flux in her belly, it is you that muſt finde out a meanes to cure the diſeaſe, otherwiſe I my ſelfe am reſolved to ſeek a remedy with this Piſtoll. The Phyſician trembling, and much diſmayed, to ſee himſelfe ſo ſuddenly ſurpriſed in this ſort, would have cryed out, but the

the other holding the Piſtoll to his breaſt, ſo terrified him, that he was conſtrained to forſake his owne Purſe, therewith to cure that which had the Flux. This part of the Tragedy being thus acted, the Theefe would ſhew to *Alcander*, that he was not yet altogether voyd of courteſie, in reſtoring unto him ſome part of his monies, and promiſed him to conduct him to his lodging, holding ſtill his Piſtoll in his hand, leſt he ſhould have made an outcry: being come unto the houſe of *Alcander*, the Theefe knocks at the doore, and taking his farewell of his Benefactor, told him, that he now onely feared raine, and that he muſt needs lend him his Cloake, and fled: *Alcander*

der could never be otherwiſe paid for his Cure; for on the morrow this Raſcall had changed both his Hoſt and lodging.

Chap. III.

A Tragi-Comedy acted by two Lovers.

WEe having already ſeen how fertile man is in wicked inventions, eſpecially when an idle leaſure in ſuch ſort ſophiſticateth the underſtanding, that he remaineth as it were buried in an accuſtomed ſluggiſhneſſe. We may yet more amply ſee it deſcribed in this enſuing diſcourſe, where we ſhall behold, and

as

as in a Table, ſee deſcribed the different Plots and Stratagems by which theſe men have ſought to maintaine themſelves by an irreligious courſe of life, to the hurt of others, and their owne finall deſtruction.

About the end of IVLY 1611. when as the Court was not much troubled with rumours of Warrs; Theeves were much ſpoken of at *Paris*, among others, there were two who conceived they might ſhew a trick of activity to a young Mercer newly married, which they put in practiſe after this manner.

They both long ſince knew, that moſt commonly there was but one boy in the ſhop; ſo that watching a time when the Maſter was

out

out of the way, one of them went unto a Chyrurgion dwelling in the ſtreet, called *Montmartyre*, whom he calling aſide, deſired that when he brought unto him a youth of ſuch and ſuch a complexion (deſcribing unto him, the age, viſage, and ſtature of the Mercers boy) he would be pleaſed to conduct him into his Chamber, for that he had a ſecret infirmity to acquaint him with, and that although he perhaps would at firſt bee baſhfull and unwilling to declare unto him his griefe, yet his parents would have him conſtrained to undergoe the Cure.

The Chyrurgion (who doubted not but that what he ſpake was true, his words being delivered with ſuch a natu-

naturall livelineſſe (promiſed him not to neglect what he propounded, but that he would ſo deale in the buſines that he ſhould have cauſe to reſt ſatisfied; and would not onely draw the boy to confeſſe his infirmity, but would undertake perfectly to cure him: whereupon this crafty Knave (joyfull of this invention, which promiſed unto him good ſucceſſe) came unto his Comrade, and told him of that which he had ſo well performed: conſulting together how they ſhould draw the boy who kept the ſhop to the ſaid Chyrurgion, which they having contrived, he who had begun the Plot, came into the ſhop, and asked to ſee ſome wares; but by ill fortune, as the boy opened

pened them, the Mistris of the house came also, which made him doubt that hee should not finish his well projected enterprise; hee could then willingly have wished himselfe further off, and that he had not enter'd, since, as the case stood, nothing promised him a good issue in his affaires: Nevertheless, to forsake a thing so well forwarded, argued Cowardise, hee therefore at length resolved to try his fortune.

He causeth to be brought unto him all sorts of the best Stuffes, and bargained for a whole piece of that he best liked, saying, that his Master a very rich Chyrurgion (whose name he telleth, and the streete wherein he resided)

ded) ſent him to make choiſe of a piece; He therefore deſired the Miſtris to permit the boy to bring the Stuffe away with him unto his Maſter, and that then he ſhould receive the moneyes according to agreement: This young woman little doubting that her new Chapman would have deceived her) commands the boy to follow the Gentleman with the Stuffe, and remember, ſaid ſhe, to bring money for it, upon theſe words they departed, and had no ſooner turned their backes but this fellowes Companion meeteth them as it were by chance; and the better to act their parts, he demandes of his Comrade whence he came? he anſwered, from his

his Master, and that he was sent to let one blood, but have you, said he, done that which my Master commanded you? have you bought the Stuffes? The boy who heard all these words, verely beleeved what they spake to be true. Our two Vagabonds being parted one from the other, he who conducted the Mercers boy, tooke occasion to tell him that the other was his companion, and so wrought, that he made him more and more confidently beleeve what he said; now as for the businesse in hand, when you come to my Master, said he, you may leave your Stuffe below in the shop, and may ascend with him into the chamber, where he will pay you your money, per-

perhaps he will ſeeke to abate of the price, but for all that, when he knoweth that I have agreed with you for it, he will not fail to content you: The young youth being thus inſtructed, they at length came unto the houſe, and entred into the ſhop, where the Chyrurgion ſeemed joyfull to ſee his new Patient, Is this (ſaid he) the youth of whom you told me? Yes Sir, anſwered the other, you may if it pleaſe you take him into your Chamber to give him content; I pray you walke up ſaid the Chyrurgion, at which words the boy leaveth the Stuffe he had under his Cloake in the ſhop, and followeth the Chyrurgion directly to the Chamber; the

other ſeeing the ſhop voyd of people, takes the Stuffe and runs away with it: The Chyrurgion in the meane time examineth the youth concerning his diſeaſe; and told him that there was no danger for him to diſcover it unto him, and that if humane remedies could give him eaſe, he hoped quickly to cure him of his malady.

The boy, quite amazed, not knowing what the Chyrurgion meaned, anſwered, That (he thanked God) he was free from any diſeaſe.

The Chyrurgion, who was intreated to preſſe him by threatnings if he would not make knowne his griefe by faire meanes, perſiſteth in his remonſtrances, My friend, ſaid he unto him, diſeaſes the more

more inveterate they are, the more difficult they are to be cured, the griefe that waxeth old, taketh root, and men are often constrained to make incision, where (if applyed in time) there needed not more then an ordinary Plaister.

The youth, who expected nothing from him but mony (that being the best salve in these dayes) told him, That he came for no other cause but to receive money for his Stuffes.

The Chyrurgion perceiving that he used all his faire perswasions to little or no purpose, thought he might draw him to tell him his infirmities by threatning; he therefore began to waxe very rough with him, but when he heard him speak of Stuffes

and Ware, he began to smell out the cheat, and asked him of what Ware he spake; the boy exclaimed wonderfully against him, calling him Cheater, and told him that he should pay for the stuffe: but in the end he was turned home without either Money or Stuffe. This may serve as a warning to young Apprentises, not to suffer themselves to be led by the faire words of any man, but to be carefull of their affaires, and to be watchfull of those things committed to their custody, by which meanes they shall deserve praise of all men, and avoyd many the like dangers which they shall run into.

CHAP.

Chap. IIII.

A Cheaters selfe-invitation.

IMpudence is the ordinary portion of Theeves, and few are found among them, that are not infected with that vice.

Garandine, as impudent as crafty (and who for his thefts was executed at *Roven*) as he was one day at *Paris*, walking from place to place, as he was ſtill accuſtomed, the better to entrap Novices; took notice of two Citizens, who having not for a long time ſeene one the other, embraced, welcomed, and mutually rejoyced one in each others company: Hee who

ſtill kept one eare for the Towne, and another for the Countrey, perceiving them diſcourſe of their particular affaires, drew by little and little neere unto them, yet without ſeeming any way deſirous to participate of their diſcourſe; At length, after much talke, the one of theſe earneſtly intreated the other to come the next day by eleven of the clock to his houſe, there to take part of a poore dinner with him, and to bring with him ſome friend to bear him company; the other faithfully promiſed him not to faile to endeavor the increaſe of his happines, by viſiting him at the appointed houre, and withall, ſignified, that he much honoured him by his invitation.

Garan-

Garandine, who had with an attentive eare hearkned to this loving invitation, was perſwaded that hee might then performe ſome exploit: He reſolves therefore to follow his intended Hoſt afarr off, and to learne the ſtreete and place where he reſided, to the end that he might not faile the next day to be there as well as he who was invited; which having taken notice of, he failed not the next day at the prefixed houre, to take his walke about the place, expecting when he who was invited to dinner would come, that he might ſerve him for an Vmbra; as the ancients were accuſtomed, who when any were invited to a feaſt, alwayes took one to accompany them.

He having at length perceived the invited gueſt comming afarre off, ſo ordered his ſteps that they both met at the ſame inſtant, juſt over againſt the very doore; wherupon, the Marchant thinking that *Gerandine* had been invited by the maſter of the houſe, conteſted in humility who ſhould enter laſt; the other would not doe as the ſhadow which lead *Socrates* one day to a banquet and entred before its Maſter, which was contrary to cuſtome, this was the cauſe that he entred laſt: Where being both welcomed by the maſter of the houſe, they ſate downe, and while dinner was preparing they entertained themſelves in diſcourſes of Newes, and relations of ſuch things

as

as passed in Court. *Garandine* in the meane time had not his eyes setled but in their unsetled motions, he gazed every way to spie out an opportunity to provide for himselfe before his departure: The table being furnished, while they wash their hands, *Garandine* cast his eye on the Bason (which was of silver, and well worth 200 crownes) and tooke notice that they had left it in the roome adjoyning, which was the Kitchin.

The Master of the house thought that his friend had brought *Gerandine* with him, and that he was of his acquaintance; And the other on the contrary, thought that the Master of the house had invited him to dinner.

It muſt needs be that *Geraudine* had a good wit, and that he carryed himſelf very cunningly knaviſh in this place; for he was examined by both, and anſwered very pertinently to all that was demanded. Dinner being ended, and the cloth taken away, they for a time recreated themſelves with diſcourſe, untill that *Garandine* having perceived that the ſervant was gone forth, and that the Miſtris of the houſe was gone into an upper Chamber, Sirs (ſaid he) I pray you excuſe me if I am ſomewhat unmannerly, there are ſome urgent occaſions which call me hence, but I will not faile to returne unto you within this quarter of an houre at moſt; and ſo having taken

taken his leave of them, he deſcended into the Kitchin, and tooke the ſilver Baſon under his arme, and fled.

He was no ſooner departed, but that the two Citizens (but eſpecially he who was invited) began to inquire who that honeſt Gentleman was? The other anſwered that he knew him not, and that he thought him to have been ſome friendly companion of his; whereupon, behold them mightily aſtoniſhed, they call the Miſtris, to whom they relate the whole Story, but in the meane time they thought not of their Baſon which was ſtollen, untill an houre after, when the ſervant was returned from the City it was found miſſing, and the Theefe known.

Thus

Thus got *Garandine* his dinner freely, but hee dearely payed for the Bason afterwards at *Roven*.

CHAP. V.

The notable impudence of AMERTIS.

WE may well tearm it an Iron or Leaden age, since we finde in it but hard-hearted and heavy actions, and not to be imagined by common senses of reasonable men; I may truly say, That the spring and fountaine from whence so many mischiefs proceed, is a certaine kind of ungracious Impudence, whereto we are all for the most part inclined,

ned, and which by our cuſtome becomming habituall, changeth it ſelfe into a nature in the end: We may ſee a notable example thereof in the perſon of *Amertis*, a man who had travelled through moſt parts of Chriſtendome, a man who had great correſpondencies both in his native Countrey and among forraine Nations, and one who was much practiſed in the affaires of the World.

As this man one day walked in the Hall of the Palace, with an intent to ſpie out mens actions, he ſaw a Merchant of *Lions*, who was with one of his aſſociates, talking about ſome Wares which he had formerly delivered unto him: *Amertis* ſeriouſly viewing the Marchant, and in a deep

deep contemplation, considering with himselfe whether he could invent some trick to surprise him; but as he ruminated on the execution of his not yet resolved enterprise, he heard three or foure Gentlemen talking of him; the one said that hee was of *Lions*, and that hee knew him very well; the other said that he had made a Voyage into *Italy* with him, and that he yet owed him some Monies which he had lent the Merchant at *Millan*: To all which *Amerais* very attentively listened, so that at length, he by this and other discourse learned who he was, where he had beene, and about what time; to be briefe, with the memory he had, which was very quick,

he

he retained all that which he heard ſpoken of him.

Not long after, he came unto him (finding him among three or foure men of quality with whom he ſometimes dealt) and ſaluteth him with a profound reverence; the other having never ſeene him before, turneth towards him, and reſalutes him with theſe words; Sir, excuſe me, I pray you, I cannot call to minde the remembrance of you, and yet methinks I have ſeen you ſome where: Sir (replied he unto him) I have had the honour to make a Voyage into *Italy* with you; The Marchant who could not remember all thoſe who fifteene yeeres ſince had beene in his company, being twelve or thirteene in number, belee-

ved

ved that he ſaid true, and tooke upon him to acknowledge it.

Amertis conjecturing well of this new fained old acquaintance, after much diſcourſe of ſeverall things which hee affirmed to have happened ſince they laſt ſaw one another, began to tell him, That he ſhould doe him a very great pleaſure if he could now helpe him to the hundred Crownes hee had formerly lent him; whereat the Marchant being much amazed, and not knowing what *Amertis* intended by thoſe words, anſwered that he ought him nothing; I cannot beleeve, replyed the other, that a man of your rank and quality (who ſeemed alwayes to have eſteemed honour,

nour, and ever made profeſſion of an honeſt life) ſhould now have ſo bad a Conſcience as to deny mee that which is my due, that were not only to violate the Rites of friendſhip and of all civill converſation, but alſo to ſubvert that good opinion men have hitherto conceived of you both at *Lions* and in *Paris*; doe not you remember that I lent you this ſumme in *Millan*? you can by no juſt meanes deny it, you will incurre a generall blame if you ſhould ſeeke to inrich your ſelfe with the goods of another.

The Merchant being perplexed, not knowing what anſwere to make to his ſo impudent demand, told him, That perhaps hee had lent him

him some Money in his Voyage, but that surely he had long since repayed; The other denying it, persisteth eagerly in his first demand.

Those that were with the Marchant, perceiving some appearance of truth in *Amertis* words (not discovering the falshood that lay hid under them) were of opinion that the Marchant wronged him, in refusing to pay him a due debt: And truely, a man who had never seen the proceedings and countenance of *Amertis*, would never have judged that he had intended deceit.

Upon this contestation they all retire to their severall houses, but *Amertis* pursued his old friend, even unto his lodging, to the end he might

might constraine him to restitution; at length, being not able at that time to prevaile, he remits his cause untill the next morning, and then finding him in an honourable assembly, he mooved him concerning his former demand.

The Marchant being much discontented to see himselfe so hardly pressed by this impudent affronter, before such worthy company, fearing to hazard the losse of reputation, and undergoe an unjust censure for it, intreats one of his company to take this debt upon him in his name, that they might try how this busines would that way succeed; whereupon, he that had received the watch-word, seeing that *Amertis* was resolutely

solutely bent to pursue the marchant, came in full assembly and said unto him, Sir, you wrong your selfe, to take this man for him that ought you the debt whereof you speak, you are mistaken Sir, it is not he, but I that owe it, (and yet everyman knew that he had never been in *Italy*.)

Amertis, as crafty as a man could possibly be, tooke occasion by the lock, and answered him, Sir, it is very true as you your selfe confesse before these worthy Gentlemen, that you owe me one hundred Crownes, for your part you cannot deny it, but this is not the debt, for I lent him this summe in *Italy*, and he must of necessity pay it. Thus he so strongly convinced them both, the one by pro-

probable circumſtances, and the other by his owne confeſſion; that for feare of looſing their reputation in ſo honourable a preſence, and to be rid of his importunity, and future trouble, they were conſtrained to pay him the one halfe in hand, promiſing him the reſt ſhortly after, which he with much intreaty accepted of.

Chap. VI.

A Marchant cheated by a pretended Church-warden.

THere lived in *Paris* a certain Cope-marchant named *Clarinde*, who was extreame rich, and ſo given to the vice of Avarice, that he could

could seldome be at rest, or enjoy any other content then by numbring his almost numberlesse Crownes; some whereof he was accustomed to carry in a great Purse, which so heavily weighed downe his pocket, as if the burthen thereof intended to crush him even unto Hell before his time.

This Purse was noated by cheating Rascalls (who are never idle, but alwayes going from street to street to seeke advantages) who having oftentimes passed and repassed by the shop of this *Clarinde*, and conidering with himselfe what plot he might put in practi e to deprive him of it; after a revolution of thoughts, resolved to make tryall of one of the strangest

ſtrangeſt inventions that ever was heard of. He takes one of his Companions upon the New-bridge (for that is the place of their ordinary retreat) and cloathing both himſelfe and his Companion like Husbandmen, they for a time conſult whether it were beſt for him to enter or retyre, for he ſaw many Chapmen in the ſhop, which made him deſpaire of arriving at the period of his deſignes; for if he ſhould have entred in among ſo many people, he could not have practiſed his invention with a cleere conveyance; againe, the habit which he had taken purpoſely for that intent, urged him not to deſiſt from his intended enterpriſe, but to try the favour of fortune; and more-

over,

over, his Companion ſo farr preſſed him, that he was ſuſpended as it were betweene two contrary opinions; In this caſe ſtood the Cutpurſe, he durſt neither goe forward nor backward; the neerer boldnes made him approach, the more the feare of being perceived willed him retire; at length he reſolved to attend, untill that the Chapmen, who were then in the ſhop, were departed, and to this he was the rather induced, by the hope he had to increaſe the gaine by his delay, for he conceived (as it prooved true indeed) that the Marchant having ſold that which they in the ſhop were bargaining for, there would ariſe the more profit unto him, if he ſhould have

the

the good fortune to obtaine his Purſe: In the meane time his companion ſeemed much diſcontented, that he ſaw not as yet, the expected iſſue of that which his Comrade had ſo confidently undertaken; the other encouraged him the beſt he could, to attend a little while, untill that the ſhop were voyd, which he did, but with much impatience.

At length, he that was Captaine in this exploit, having noated that the Chapmen were departed, came to advertiſe his Companion, that he ſhould ſtand Sentinel on the end of the Marchants Bridge, there to receive from him what he brought; he in the meane time goes into the ſhop, where finding the Mar-

chant alone, he cauſeth him to open divers Copes, telling him that he was a Pariſhioner of *Gentilly*, and that being not long ſince choſen Church-warden, he was appointed to buy a faire Cope for the Parſon of the Pariſh, he deſired him therefore to ſhew him thoſe that were good, and to uſe him well in the price. *Clarinde*, who thirſted inwardly with the greedy deſire of gaine, ſheweth him divers ſorts of Copes, among theſe the Cutpurſe made choiſe of one to which he ſeemed to have a better liking then the reſt, he therefore cheapens it, but before he would fully agree on the price, he tells him that hee would deſire to ſee whether the Cope were well made,

and

and whether for ſize or length it would fit the Curate of the Pariſh, who he ſaid was much about his ſtature; he therefore intreats him to doe him ſo much favour as to aſſay it; *Clarinde* (nothing at all doubting of that which his pretended Church-warden would do) puts on the Cope on his back, which the Church-warden having exactly viewed, ſeemed to diſlike, for ſhortneſſe, in that part where the Pouch hung; the Marchant ſuppoſing the cauſe of this ſeeming ſhortneſſe to be no other then the bearing out of his Pouch underneath, unhang'd it and laid it by on the Counter; his Chapman reviewing him, ſaid hee now liked it well, but his Purſe

better; with that he nimbly ſnatcht it, and ran away; the Marchant in his Cope (for he had no leaſure to put it off) ran after, the one for his money, the other for his life; the Cutpurſe, who had outrun him about fourty paces, told the people by the way as he ran, that they muſt not by any meanes ſtay him, for that hee that ran after him was diſtracted, to others he ſaid, that he ran for a wager; *Clarind* notwithſtanding ceaſeth not his purſute, but his legs being too ſtiffe, and his joynts not well ſuppled, and the world gazing more on the fluttring of his gay Cope then on him or his Cutpurſe, he at length loſt ſight of his Church-warden, and was conſtrained, with ſhame, to returne

returne to his houſe, with the loſſe of all the money which hee had [received in eight dayes before.

CHAP. VII.

Polidamors *entertainement among Theeves.*

THe City of *Paris* hath alwayes been accounted the ordinary refuge and retreate of Theeves and Vagabonds, and (which one would admire) many of them maintaine themſelvs ſo well, and go ſo compleate in their apparell, conforming their diſcourſe and outward demeanor thereunto, that men would often take them for the chief gentlemen in court.

Let us now see what happened to *Polidamor* by the enterprises of some of these night-walking Vagabonds. *Polidamor* was an Advocate, as famous for his wisdome, as renowned for his eloquence, he onely was spoken of in the Palace and Courts of Pleadings; his name was the ordinary discourse of men of honour, and he was admired of all that knew him.

These plotters of Mischiefe, who lie alwayes in Ambush, expecting their prey, hearing some talke of this worthy man, resolved among themselves to try their cunning to entrap him: The complot being resolved on, and they (knowing his lodging, which was not far from

the Cordeliers) often ſought the opportunity to ſurpriſe him, but yet for three or foure times they failed; but at length, he comming onely attended on by a little Lackey, neere Saint *Andrewes* of Arts, three of them having perceived him, preſently beſet him, and there rifle him; but finding no ſtore of money about him, they took from him a new Cloake of very fine Spaniſh-cloth lin'd through with Pluſh: *Polidamor*, who wonderfully vexed that he had been after ſuch a ſort un-Cloak'd, ſaid unto them; Sirs, I humbly intreat you to afford mee ſo much favour as to permit me (ſince you have taken away my Cloake) to redeeme it upon reaſonable termes, I ſhall

willingly give unto you for it more then it wil elſewhere affoord you; if therefore my propoſition bee acceptable unto you, to morrow, at what houre you ſhall pleaſe to appoint, I will bring you mony for it: the Theeves hearing him ſpeake after that ſort, anſwered him, That he ſhould not faile the next day, by ſix a clock at night, to be in that place, and that then they would reſtore unto him his Cloak, but withall, told him, That they were already informed of his lodging and quality, and therefore charged him not to bring any one with him to ſerve him for a ſafe Convoy, for if he did, they vowed his ruine, and gave him juſt cauſe to deſpaire (if he came accompanied)

nied) of ever returning to his houſe.

Polidamor, terrified with ſuch threatnings, promiſed them not to faile to bee there alone at th'appointed houre, in the meane time hee was conſtrained to returne to his houſe without his Cloake, which he thought very unſeemely in a man of his quality, and could hardly digeſt it, he being a man not accuſtomed to ſuch rude entertainements; but in this caſe he muſt make a vertue of neceſſity by enduring it with patience, not knowing well how to remedy it.

On the morrow he takes his purſe well furniſhed with money, and departs from his houſe about halfe an houre after five, and came to the

place where the former night he had loſt his Cloake, there he for a time attended; at length, immediately after ſixe, he perceived a Coach with three or foure Gentlemen in it, *Polidamor* little thought thoſe whom he expected were ſuch kinde of people; theſe men ſeeing him ſtand at the appointed place, cauſed likewiſe their Coach to ſtop; whereupon, one of them privately enquires of him, whether he were the man from whom they had, the night before, taken away a Cloake lined with Pluſh? he anſwered, That he was the man, and that he came thither upon no other buſineſſe, but to redeem it according to his promiſe; Upon this anſwere, one of them came

came unto him, and whiſpering him in his eare, demanded whether he were accompanied, or not, and told him that if he were, his life was in hazard: he having vowed unto them that he was alone, was taken up by them, and placed in the midſt of the Coach, where they hoodwinke him, one of them holding a Piſtoll at his breaſt leſt he ſhould make an outcry; behold *Polidamor* greatly amaz'd and terrified, but he was much incouraged when they promiſed not any way to hurt him, or doe him miſchiefe; they preſently cauſe the boote of the Coach to be ſhut cloſe, and command the Coachman to drive away with ſpeed: *Polidamor* in the meane time remained

as

as it were in a trance, not knowing whither hee was conveyed.

Having ſwiftly hurried from ſtreet to ſtreet, they came at length to a moſt ſtately houſe, where the gate being preſently opened, they enter; then began *Polidamor* to redouble his feare, and to expect the houre of his death, for he never thought to eſcape; at length, his eyes being uncovered, they led him ſtraight to a great Hall, where hee found the Tables covered with all kindes of moſt exquiſite meates, hee was mightily aſtoniſhed to ſee himſelfe in the midſt of ſo many people, all in good order, and ſo well clothed, that a man would have judged them to have been of ſome high

high quality: They told him that he needed not to feare, for that he was in good company, and that they had not brought him thither, but that he might doe them the honour to take part of a poore Supper with them; but *Polidamor* could have wisht himselfe at Supper elsewhere in a place of more security; for he could not devise, either in what part of the city he then was, nor conceive what they were with whom hee was to Suppe.

In the meane time, having washed their hands, every one tooke his place, and had they been Princes they could not have been better attended, yet they caused *Polidamor* to sit at the upper end of the Table, who had he been

further

further from both ends would have had a better appetite; He notwithſtanding made ſhew of eating with the reſt, judging, that ſeeing he was in the middeſt of Wolves, he could not doe otherwiſe then imitate their actions; When they had all Supped, and that the Tables were uncovered and Cloth taken away, ſome of them came to diſcourſe with *Polidamor*, and after a complementall manner, told him, That they were ſorry that he had eaten ſo little with them; to which he knew not what to anſwere, for he feared leſt by the raſh utterance of ſome word which might be wrong taken, he ſhould provoke them to anger, and ſo draw on his owne ruine, yet hee

tooke

took courage, and deliberately gave them reſpective anſwers; While ſome of them were in diſcourſe, one tooke a Lute, another a Violl, and ſo recreated themſelves; At length, after much talke, he, who the day before had taken the Cloake from *Polidamor*, came unto him, and asked him whether hee had brought the Mony which he promiſed: *Polidamor* anſwered that it was ready, and thereupon told out thirty piſtols upon the end of the Table (the Cloak being well worth fourty:) This being done, they ſhewed unto him a little private Chamber, which ſeemed unto him a very rich Wardrobe, hanged round about with Coats and Cloakes of great value, there they

they bade him cull out his; *Polidamor* was amazed to see such costly Cloakes, and began to take courage; and having found his Cloak among the rest, he returned againe into the Hall, behaving himselfe towards them with all submissive respects, for he feared that hee should not part upon so good termes, neither did he; for when he was ready to depart, one came and told him, That the Coachman who had brought him thither, and was to conduct him backe, must be rewarded for his paines with a pistolet, and that hee must likewise pay for his Supper with them: *Polidamor*, unwillingly liberall, giveth them two pistolets more, and so took his leave of them: The

Coach

Coach was ſuddenly provided, whereinto he entring, and having his eyes bound up, he was brought unto the ſame place where they had formerly taken him up, there did they uncover his eyes and ſet him on foot, delivering him a Billet, ſealed with greene Wax, wherein was written theſe words in great Letters,

THE GREAT BANDE HATH LET HIM PASSE.

and withall, adviſed him if he met with any one that would offer him any kinde of violence, to ſhew unto him this Paſſeport; telling him, That by that means he ſhould be permitted quietly to paſſe, So *Polidamor* parted

parted from them, happy to have eſcaped out of their hands with life: But ſcarce had he gone into the ſecond ſtreet, but he found three other Theeves ready to rifle him; and now he who at firſt made no account of the Billet which they had given him, bethought himſelfe that perhaps it might ſtand him in ſtead; he therefore preſents it unto them, which was read by one of them that carried a dark Lanthorne, ſo they ſuffred him to paſſe and return unto his houſe, where his wife remained in great perplexity, not knowing what was become of her husband; but her anxious feare was ſoone turned into joy by his preſence, and into delight by the Relation which hee made

made unto her of his adventures. She, like a loving wife, not regarding the losse which he had sustained, seeing smile-frowning Fortune had shewed her constant inconstancy, by converting his former losse and danger, into a safe returne.

Chap. VIII.

A prodigious History of the treacheries of Valesio.

THose men who are perswaded that they can bring the greatest things to perfection, finde themselves most often entangled by their naturall imbecility and weakenesse, and most commonly, the mischiefes which they

they contrive againſt their neighbours, and the evills which they project againſt them, take not ſucceſſe but to their owne loſſe and diſgrace; yea, thoſe very darts which they moſt deſpightfully caſt at others, doe often, by Gods juſtice, reverberate againſt themſelves: Antiquitie furniſheth mee with many examples; but our latter Age hath noated out one above the reſt, as prodigious and fearefull, as beyond the ſence and common opinion of men.

There hath not paſt an Age wherein the great Creator hath not made ſome ſignes of his juſt indignation appeare, to puniſh the treacheries of thoſe that imbrace actions

actions ſo wicked and abominable, as if hatcht in hell, rather then ſprung from mans invention. The Hiſtory which I now deſcribe unto you is true, and happened not long ſince; the ſequell whereof is as much to be admired, as his end, who was the cauſe of it, was prodigious and horrible.

Valeſio was borne in *Berne* a Canton of Switzerland, and was ſent by his father to the City of *Lucerne*, to bee there inſtructed; hee had a ſpirit full of ſubtilty, and fit to undergoe great matters, had he been honeſtly enclined: In *Lucerne* hee for a time ſtudied the Law, where during his abode hee often reſorted to the houſe of an Inn-keeper, named

Lucio

Lucio of *Zurich*, a man rich and wealthy, with whom he grew so familiarly acquainted, that he could neither eat nor drinke but in his company; he lodged over against his house, and it seem'd that heaven was not favourable unto him when he enjoyed not the company of this man; but his affection increased when it had taken footing within his house, and when hee became enamor'd with the beauty of his onely daughter: This yong *Valesio* being inflamed with an earnest desire of injoying the feature of this maid, the oftner frequented the house, under pretence of visiting the Father, when as indeed his greatest happinesse consisted in beholding the beauty of the

the daughter; their eyes had already given to each other friendly enterchanges, and had privately practiſed an alliance in their thoughts, by the encounter of their rayes; and their hearts quickly approved of that within, which their eyes had practiſed without; ſo that *Valeſio* perceiving his affection ſeconded by a favourable Zephir, reſolved to acquaint his Love with that which his heart as yet concealed; The father being advertiſed therof, and perceiving that the inclinations and affections of theſe Lovers were mutuall, knit them together in marriage, under the ſweete bonds of *Hymen*; happy, and thrice happy had they been, had they not abuſed it, but finiſh-

ed

ed the number of their yeres, without ſtraying from the path of Vertue. They lived two yeeres and an halfe together, in all ſorts of Temporall delight; at the end whereof, the father died of a lingering feaver, happy in that he ſurvived not to bee a ſpectator of the enſuing Tragedy. By the death of *Lucio*, all the inheritance fell into the poſſeſſion of *Valeſio*, (for his wives mother deceaſed long before.) He therefore reſolved to take the ſame courſe of life, as his father in law had done before him, being that he found the houſe ſo well furniſhed: The good entertainment which he at the beginning gave unto his gueſts, purchaſed him a good report of every one;

ſo

ſo that if any man deſired to entertaine a friend ſumptuouſly, whither muſt they go but to the houſe of *Valeſio*; there were they joyfully receaved, and uſed with all kinde of contentment; but at length, the ſwinge which *Valeſio* had taken, made him ſo ſwell with pride, that he began to forget his family, that he might the better forget himſelfe; the courteſie which he formerly ſhewed unto his gueſts, was now changed into moſt cruell tyranny, which he often exerciſed upon travellers, killing and maſſacring them like unto another *Licaon*: his houſe heretofore the receptacle and ſeat of courteſie, was now become the cut-throat and deadly place where poor

Paſſengers were entrapped; he hacked them moſt cruelly in peeces, and made Pies therewith (an unnaturall and monſtrous barbariſme,) hee durſt not have practiſed theſe cruelties towards the Citizens of *Lucerne*, for ſo his wickedneſſe had beene diſcovered: the delicate reliſh of his meat which hee provided, drew unto him a multitude of gueſts, which they with joyful greedineſſe devoure, whiles that he (Villaine) laughs at their ſimplicity; little thinking, that he himſelfe ſhould ſhortly feele the juſt judgement of God, heavily lighting upon him for his monſtrous and barbarous cruelties. A ſtrange blindneſſe in humane conceits, which perſwade themſelves,

ſelves, that there is no Divinity to reveuge or puniſh their heynous crimes and miſdeeds; we ſo flatter our ſelves in our wicked proſperities that we cannot beleeve we ſhall ever fall into thoſe miſerable puniſhments wch wee deſerve. *Valeſio* could never beleeve, that the Heavens would reveale or reveuge the death of thoſe innocent Soules, which hee had moſt barbarouſly ſlaine: but the Great mover of the Heavens could no longer ſuffer ſo cruell crimes: the bloud of ſo many poore wretches unjuſtly ſhed, cried for vengeance before the glorious majeſty of his face; and yet this great and merciſull God ſtaied for a time the furie of his juſtice, to hear-

ken to the ſweet requeſts of mercy, but hee (wretched Caitiffe) deferred ſo long repentance for his heinous miſdeeds, untill the weight of ſo many deadly crimes, drew the arme of the juſt vengeance of God to puniſh him, as ſeverely and exemplarily, as the faults deſerved.

It hapned after the ſecret murthers of ſo many people, that a certaine Merchant of *France* returning from *Bohemia*, was in paſſing that way deſirous to ſee the Cantons of the *Switzers*, and particularly the City of *Lucerne*; he therefore came unto this City, where being arrived he inquires for an Inne, and was directed to the houſe of *Valeſio*, as the beſt and moſt renowned

nowned Inne of the City; he goes thither, and was favourably received and welcomed by thoſe cruell Syrens, who allured paſſengers unto them by the harmonious conſorts of their voices, that they might afterward devoure them, and make them their prey: he having viſited the City, and viewed part of the rarities thereof, (as the ſtately Monaſtery, and the River *Ruſsi*, which paſſeth through the Towne, and runneth forth of a great Lake as doth the River *Rhine*, out of the Lake of *Conſtance*) was deſirous to take his reſt: Here the confidence which the gueſt ordinarily repoſeth (according to the cuſtome of *France*) in the Maſter of the Inne, made the Merchant

diſburthen himſelfe of two thouſand Crownes which he had in gold, and to demand of *Valeſio*, a place where he might put them in ſafe keeping: this Inne-keeper, who was alwayes double in his workes, had a ſtrong and maſſie Cupbord, and two Keyes which might eaſily open it; whereof he gave one unto the Merchant to put his money in ſafegard, but kept the other cloſe unto himſelf, to ſerve his own opportunities: night approaching, he was tempted to bereave his gueſt, both of life and money: but whether it were that God would otherwiſe diſpoſe of him, or that his owne life was already come to its period; his wife who noated a comelineſſe and courteſie

courteſie more then ordinary in this Merchant, diſſwaded him from ſo bloudy a deſigne, and urged him to imbrace another leſſe cruell, but ſuch as muſt coſt him his life.

The Merchant roſe early in the morning to view the reſt of the City, which hee had not ſeen the day before. *Valeſio* in the meane time openeth the Cupbord, rippeth the bottome of the bag, and taketh a note in writing of the quantity of all the moneyes in generall, and likewiſe of every ſort of coyne in particular which he there found; then having neatly ſtitched up the bottome of the bag, he locked the Cupbord, and acted his part with ſuch ſubtill dexterity, that it

was impoſſible for a man to diſcerne that it had beene touched: but he who penetrates into the depth of our moſt ſecret thoughts, eaſily diſcovered this craft, as may be noted by that which enſues.

The Marchant having ſatiſfied his curioſity, and ſeen (in paſſing) that which was moſt worthy of noate in the Towne, returned to his Inne; and having payed what they demanded, he took forth his bagge and went to horſeback. *Valeſio* preſently thinking that he had in vaine opened the Theatre (and begun the Play) if he finiſhed not the Tragedy, breakes open the bottom of his Cupboord, and preſently begins to raiſe Hue and Cry after the Theef,

Theef, pretending that the Marchant had robbed him; His neighbours were inſtantly in an uproare, (for he had ſo long worne the cloake of Diſſimulation, and outwardly behaved himſelf, that every man eſteemed his word as an Oracle) inſomuch that many of his beſt friends prepared themſelves for purſute; the Hoſt ſheweth them which way his gueſt went, they haſten after and overtake him two Leagues from *Lucerne*; they ſeize on his perſon, as on a malefactor; accuſe him of theft, and bring him backe bound hand and foot into the Towne; whereat he being amazed, ſeemes, by his ſilence, as it were to confeſſe the deed: They lead him before a Juſtice, who ſen-

deth him to priſon. That part of the Tragedy being acted, they prepare his Inditement; and the Hoſt ſhewing his memoriall, intreateth them not to examine him untill they had peruſed his noate; He makes it apparent that his Cupboord was broken; and upon the opening of the bags, the Judges found therein the ſame ſumme and ſorts of Coyne ſpecified in the Hoſts noate. The moſt wary and wiſeſt Judge might have been incumbred, and overſhot themſelves in ſo intricate a buſineſſe. The Evidence of the deed being thus almoſt ſifted out (in mans judgement) cauſed the poore Marchant to be ſhut up in a ſtrait dungeon, and there to be laden with Irons.

Thus

Thus this poore innocent groaned in darkeſome caves, not knowing any meanes of his delivery: Wretch that I am (would he ſay) muſt I needs periſh in this obſcure place, not having ſo much as intended that whereof they accuſe me? What Celeſtiall powers have I ſo offended, that I ſhould be reduced to ſuch miſery? was I borne under ſo cruell Conſtellations that my own innocence ſhould betray me, and bereave me of my life? O great God! who in thy juſt judgements canſt penetrate into the depth of this ſecret and unjuſt accuſation, Wilt thou ſuffer my fault to be made criminall in this ſort? And muſt I be the ſhuttle-cocke and ſport of treaſon? Revenge

venge and reveale this their injuſtice, (I beſeech thee) and ſuffer me not to periſh in this depth of miſery. As he pronounced theſe words with an extreame griefe and unexpreſſable paſſion, a Devill appeared unto him in an humane ſhape, wearing on his head a red Cap, and approaching him, inquires, what his griefe was, and tels him, that if hee would give him his ſoule, he would deliver him out of thoſe Fetters wherein he was wrongfully ſhackled? Many in theſe dayes, and alwayes have bin, who would have redeemed themſelves out of theſe temporary paines, to have caſt themſelves into the eternall, therby to have regain'd their over-valued liberty; but this

Merchant

Merchant having firme hope in the Divine Providence, anſwered, that he was reſolved never to commit ſo heinous a crime, and that he had rather dye innocent of the offence, whereof they accuſed him, then to live guilty of renouncing his Creator. This Devil, deſtinated by the Almighty for to be a puniſher of *Valeſio's* wickednes, notwithſtanding offereth him his ſervice, & promiſeth him certainly to procure his liberty, provided, he would follow his advice; he then told him, that the very day whereon they would bring him to execution, he would be preſent to defend his cauſe that he ſhould therfore boldly make choice of him for his advocate, againſt the Im-

poſtures

poſtures of his Hoſt, that he ſhould know him by his red Cap, and that he by ſo doing ſhould be by him cleerely freed from his innocent danger. Now it is to be noted, that when any among the Cantons of the Switzers, wil condemn a man to death, the Senate pronounceth his ſentence in the midſt of the Aſſembly upon a Scaffold, and giveth permiſſion to the condemned to make choiſe of any of the company to defend his cauſe: this cuſtome hath beene anciently practiſed, and yet is continued unto this day.

The day being come, wheron this Criminell ſhould be puniſhed, he was brought unto the place of execution, where an infinite number of people

people attended him, all of them being verely perſwaded that this crime (whereof he was falſly accuſed) ſhould be rigourouſly puniſhed, for an example to others for enſuing times: They bring him on the Scaffold, his Hoſt being there preſent, and pronounce the ſentence of his death, demanding of him (according unto cuſtom) whether he had any one in the Company that would plead for him; he, in this miſerable plight lookes about him, and eſpying the red Bonnet among the reſt. Although (ſayes he) my innocence ſpeakes ſufficiently of it ſelfe to juſtifie my actions, having alwaies lived honeſtly, and in good credit, yet ſince I may claime the liber-

ty

ty of your cuſtome, I make choice of him in the red Cap, whom you may there ſee, to juſtifie me: upon theſe words every one looking upon the Man, of whō he ſpake, could not tell what to imagine, for he looked not like a Switzer, either in habit or countenance, he aſcends upon the Scaffold, cauſeth the Hoſt to approach, begins to declare the naked truth of the matter, confronts, and confutes the witneſſes, ſtrikes a feare & terror into the hearts and conſciences of his accuſers, and plainly layes open the wickednes of *Valeſio*. The people in the meane time wonder at his boldneſſe, and admire his eloquence, he at lēgth declares the fraud, making it appeare the bags were ripped:

ripped: then he brings the Judges to the Inne, where he diſcovers unto thē the place where they were accuſtomed to hide humane fleſh; *Valeſio* notwithſtanding inſiſteth on the contrary, and by ſuperficiall reaſons, indeavours to palliate his wickedneſſe, ſtill affirming that the Merchant had ſtollen the ſaid money from him; the Devill willing to catch him in his trap, ſaid unto him, ſithence thou aſſureſt with ſuch probabilities that this innocent is guilty of death, and that he hath robbed thee, wilt thou on thy faith ſweare that hee hath done it? The Hoſt preſently, the better to confirme the juſtneſſe of his accuſation, ſaid, it was hee alone which ſtole away my mony,

and

and if it were not ſo as I have affirmed, I wiſh to God that the Devill may carry me away both body and ſoul; the Devill without prolonging the matter, takes upon him a moſt horrible ſhape, ſnatcheth him up, and carrieth him away through the midſt of the wide ayre: thus payed he for treacherouſly accuſing the poore innocent, and ſo inhumanely maſſacring thoſe, who he ſhould have kindly entertained.

The Marchant was preſently ſet at liberty, with his Monies reſtored unto him, the Judges deſiring pardon for committing ſo great an errour, in ſo raſhly condemning him; For which, he deſired no other ſatisfaction at his departure, but an Act to be

be recorded, and a Certificate made of the preſent Hiſtory, to leave to poſterity, the never dying remembrance of the infamous treachery of the ever dying *Valeſio*.

CHAP. IX.

A young Cut-purſe made free.

THat I may recreate your mind after the former ſad relation, I ſhal here relate unto you, a bolde deede and pleaſant Hiſtory, performed in the Churchyard of Saint *Innocents* in *Paris*; the trueth whereof many of the neighbouring Marchants can yet witneſſe, and it was in this manner:

There

There was a young Boy newly arrived at *Paris*, who had associated himselfe with divers Vagabonds and Cutpurses, there did this Boy remaine for the space of fifteene dayes, without doing any thing that might be termed notorious: at length, (as every thing hath a beginning) the assembly of Rogues resolved, sithence that hee would be of their society, to make him free: for in this trade, it is not as in others, wherein men must bee first Scholers, before they be Masters; or Aprentices, before they become Freemen: here is but a word and a blow, one nip takes a Purse, and in the subtilty thereof consists the perfection of the Trade.

Now

Now there was one among the reſt of the company, who was enjoyned to take this Boy abroad, and to appoint him ſome kinde of triall, whereby they might bee aſſured of his courage and aptneſſe to the performance of exploits. He therefore takes forth his new Comerade, and brings him from one part of the Towne to the other, ſtill expecting an oportunity of doing miſchiefe; at length being come into the Cloyſter of Saint *Innocent*, they perceived an old Woman kneeling on a Tombe, there praying for the ſoules departed; whereupon this old Hang-man told the Boy, that if he would become Maſter of his Trade

and

and bee of their fraternity, he must with a resolute subtilty go and cut the old Womans purse; to whom the Boy answered, that it was impossible for him so to doe without being perceived, and therefore desired to goe try in some other place where there were a throng of people, that hee might the better performe what he intended without evident dange; for that to attempt cutting off her purse, she kneeling by her self, there being store of people in other places of the Church, which might easily apprehend him, was as hee said, meere madnesse: but the old Fox so urged him by perswasions and threatnings, that he was at length constrained

ſtrained to undertake it; ſo the Boy approached the Tombe, and kneeled downe cloſe by the old woman; ſhe (nothing doubting of the intended roguery, but contrarywiſe thinking that Devotion had brought him thither) held on in her prayers, and was not a jot interrupted in them: Now the young Rogue was in great perplexity of minde, not knowing whether it were beſt for him to adventure, or not; which his guide miſdoubting (by reaſon of his long ſtay) came and made a ſigne unto him to diſpatch; whereupon, the boy incouraged with the hope of his being free by that exploit, ſlily cut her Purſe; and ſo with a ſlow pace withdrew himſelfe;

ſelfe, and being very joyfull of what he had done, came unto his guide, who expected him in the Cloyſter: but when as the old Villane had look't into the Purſe, and found but little in it, he told his young Companion, that he had not yet paſſed Maſter of his art, for that he would ſhew him one trick of his Trade, which he had not yet learned; whereupon he took him by the hand, and griping him faſt, cried out unto the Woman, that that young fellow had cut her Purſe; the Woman preſently looking about her, found her ſtrings there, but her Purſe gone: as ſoone as the people heard it, they haſtned towards the Boy; but the newes was no ſooner ſpread, but the Boy was

was gone, yet not ſo far, but that whole troopes followed him, who being overtaken, was ſoundly beaten with Cudgels, every one thronging to ſee the young Cutpurſe; among others, there were divers Merchants of the ſtreet, who came out of their Shops with little Pouches by their ſides, which the old Villane taking notice of, thruſt himſelfe into the thickeſt of the throng, and there cut off foure or five of their Pouches: the Merchants at length perceiving, that while they were expoſtulating with the Boy, ſome other cut their Pouches, which they wondred at, and well noating the behaviour of the old Theefe, they upon the ſudden found him cutting off

another: this made all the people to forſake the Boy, and to follow him, by which meanes the Boy eſcaped; but the old Cutpurſe was by one of the nimbleſt footmen overtaken, who truſting too much to the hold which he had of one of his eares, ſuffered him likewiſe to eſcape from him; for this crafty old Hang-man, having formerly loſt his eares, for ſome ſuch miſchievous exploit, procured others to be ſo artificially made, that they ſeemed as naturall as others: by one of theſe was he taken, which eaſily comming off, gave occaſion of wonder to thoſe that purſued him; and the meane while that they ſtood wondring at that, he eſcaped to the Grove, into a throng of

of people, who were there assembled to see an Execution of one who was broken on the Wheele; from which place, he carried two Purses more to his fellowes, where hee found his young Cutpurse much discontented, that he had so treacherously dealt with him: Thus passed this young Boy Master in his Trade, after he had beene well beaten, though not so well as he justly deserved.

Chap. X.

The Life and Death of little Iames.

IT is hard for one in these dayes, to find out a young

man endued with a ſtaid wiſdome; for they ſuffer themſelves to be ſo violently hurried by the heat of their owne paſſions, that vertue is moſt commonly over-maſtered by vice, and reaſon, by a ſelfe-will inclination: the chiefe cauſe of this is, that vice eſcapes too oft unpuniſhed, and that Parents doe commonly ſlacken the reines of their authority, permitting their children to doe whatſoever they vainely deſire: ſo that this age being too apt and ſubject to ruine of it ſelfe; if it be moreover encouraged to evill, by the over-fond permiſſion of Parents, it is no wonder, if at length vice predominate.

O wonderfull and perverſe Age! How many Monſters doeſt

doſt thou produce? How many children are in theſe times borne Viper-like, to gnaw out the bowels of their Parents; cauſing them to cuſtome themſelves in ſorrows and mournefull lamentations?

When wee have once loſt that dutifull reſpect wherein we are obliged towards our Parents, how quickly do we loſe that which we ſtrictly owe unto God? As may appeare exemplified in the inſuing Hiſtory, of one *Iames*, who being about the age of fifteene Yeares, forſook his Parents (who were too careleſſe of his education,) with a full reſolution, to betake himſelfe to a debaucht kinde of life: and finding a fit opportunity, ſtole from his Fa-

ther a great ſome of money, and ſo fled. Not long after hee enrolled himſelfe as a Souldier, under the command of a Lord, who at that time conducted a great Regiment: (this was in thoſe firſt troubles, wherein *France*, for a time, loſt the ſweet repoſe of peace, by the diſſention of ſome great Peares in the State, who were retired from the Kings ſervice to Cantonize it in divers Provinces of the Kingdome.) While he was in the Army, he committed a thouſand inſolencies: and though but little in age and ſtature, yet he grew to that height of wickednes, that he was therein inferiour to none. He ſeldome ſtayed long in a place, and where he remained leaſt, he ſometimes left

left the greateſt marks of his cruelty: thoſe who ſuffered moſt by him, were poore Country people: ſome whereof, he would cauſe to be ſtretched out before a fire, and ſo by ſcorching and burning the ſoles of their feet, would force them to confeſſe where their money lay: hee would flaſh and cut the fleſh of others, who would not ſuddenly bring unto him his appointed ranſome; and would alſo ſometimes raviſh thoſe Maids hee by chance met: he grew ſo couragious that no man durſt doe him an affront: for in foure yeares wherein he lived in the Army, he had ſlain five in ſingle combat; who not being patient enough to indure his bravadoes) had

challenged him; of which murthers he ſoone obtained remiſſion, (being much favoured of ſome Great ones) and ſo eſcaped unpuniſhed.

The Army being at length caſhier'd, he was conſtrain'd (being never bred to labour) either to ſteale, or beg: hee therefore betook himſelfe to the Forreſt of *Senlis*, where he robbed divers Paſſengers; thence hee went as farre as *Cleremont*, with five or ſix of his Companions, who being armed with Piſtols, there robbed the Waggon of *Amiens*: thence he betook himſelfe to *Paris*, where he committed ſo many thefts, that he was at length, by the Society of Cutpurſes, choſen Ringleader of their Company: he carried himſelfe ſo ſubtilly

ſubtilly in his affaires, that his moſt truſty companions could never know where his lodging was; only when they met together, he would appoint them a rendivous wher to meet the next day; and would often puniſh, and ſometimes ſtab, thoſe who the day before had executed no enterprize of noate. He would ſometimes be clothed in the habit of a Phyſitian, in which he would often go to the houſes of ſick perſons, and having noated the entries, they ſhould not faile the next day to finde themſelves robbed: he would hide himſelfe ſometimes a whole day together, in a Houſe, and at night would open the doores to his Companions; at other times he would

cauſe himſelfe to be followed by foure or five Tagrags, and would haſtily come to the houſe of ſome Counſellor, when he thought moſt of the houſhold ſervants were elſewhere imployed, and having earneſtly demanded to ſpeak with him, the Counſellor ſhould no ſooner approach, but little *Iames* (for ſo they called him) would have a Piſtoll at his breſt, and then force him to furniſh him with what money he deſired.

He, with two or three of his Companions, being one day in the faire S^t. *Germain*, perceived a certain Atturney cheapning a ſilver Baſin of a Goldſmith, who not agreeing on the price, put the money (which hee had offered downe

downe for payment) into his pocket; whereupon, little *Iames* ſhewing this Atturney to one of his Comrades, commanded him to dive into the bottome of his pocket for that Gudgeon, and that otherwiſe they two ſhould not bee good friends; which the other refuſed to doe, as impoſſible without eminent danger; he thereupon called unto him another, from whom he received the like deniall: He ſeeing that neither of them would obey his commands, conceived a mortall hatred againſt them; and intending ſhortly to bee revenged, he ſaid unto them, You will not undertake this enterpriſe, to eaſe me of imaginary difficulties, but aſſure your ſelves (if I looſe it) you ſhall

ſhall ſoundly pay for it: he having thus ſpoken left them, and came unto the Attourney, who was then bargaining with another Goldſmith, becauſe he could not agree on the price with the firſt: and finding an opportunity, by reaſon of the throng then about him, thruſt him with ſuch violence, that his Hat fell to the ground, which while the Attourney tooke up, he gently put his hand into his Pocket and tooke his Purſe, ſo that the Attourney having afterward agreed with the Goldſmith for the Baſin, found no money to pay him, which was like to have cauſed diſſention, in regard that the Goldſmith would have forced the

the Basin on him. Little *Iames* having thus acted his part, returned unto his Companions, and shewed them the Purse, whereat they rejoyced, but this their joy was short: for Little *Iames* hating them deadly for their disobedience, led them to a by-place, called Mount *Pernassus*, where hee commanded the one to stay for him; and having drawne the other about a Flight-shot from thence, told him in great fury, that he could hardly forbeare to kill him, whereupon his Comrade desired to know the cause of his anger, and the reason why hee spoke such words; but Little *Iames* perceiving that he saucily reasoned with him,

suddenly

ſuddenly drew forth his Sword and ranne him thorow: thence he came back to the other, whom he had commanded to ſtay for him on the Mount; but leſt his companion ſhould ſuſpect any harme or ill intent from him, he drew neere unto him with a ſmiling countenance; when the other asking him where his Comrade was, he ſnatcht forth a Poniard, and ſtabbing him therewith, he ſaid, behold, there he is, go thou to him.

He once killed a begging Frier; and having taken on him his habit and Letters of Order, came unto the Friers at S. *Vincents*, where he was by them for the ſpace of fifteene dayes kindly entertained: and being reſolved to furniſh

furniſh himſelfe before his departure, he brought with him from *Paris* divers ſorts of Pick-lock inſtruments, with which hee (while the reſt of the Convent, were about midnight (as their cuſtome is) at Mattens,) excuſing himſelfe for his abſence (as being conſtrained thereto) by in-diſpoſition of body, pickt open a doore where their money lay, which hee having taken away, cunningly ſhut the doore and went to bed: the next day he aroſe early, and taking his leave of the Superiour, returned to *Paris*; where by his begging from doore to doore, hee greatly diſtreſſed thoſe that were of that Order: for when any of them went forth to beg proviſion, they were anſwered,

ſwered, that they were ſerved already, and that they had given it to one of their fellowes, whereat the Fryers were mightily amazed, and could not conceive by any meanes who it was that ſo groſly abuſed them: by this meanes did Little *Iames* commit ſundry great theſts within the Citizens houſes, he having free entrance, by reaſon of his habit: but it came to paſſe at length, that the Fryers of Saint *Vincents* having found out his arch knavery, deſired ſome Officers within the City to ſearch for him; but their labour was in vaine; untill it hapned that one of thoſe Fryers (not long after,) entring into a certaine houſe for an almes, met this *Iames* comming

comming forth of the ſame Houſe; whereupon hee intreated the Servants to lay hands on him, which they did; and having luſtily beaten him, were about to have led him to a Juſtice: but by the comming of ſome of his Aſſociates, who guarded him, hee was reſcued; Little *Iames* taking an eſpeciall notice of them, came the the next morning, (having changed his habit,) neere unto the place where thoſe Servants dwelt, and craftily enquires their names, and the names of their Parents; which having fully underſtood, he appointed 2. or 3. of his companions to meet him at a houſe not far from thence, at wch time he wrote this Letter unto one of the Lackeys

Lackeys which had beaten him, whose name was *Francis Maire*, the Contents of the Letter was as followeth;

Sonne,

I Am come purposely into this City, to acquaint you with some affaires which have lately happened in our parts: you have lived long here with little profit, I have found a Match fit for you in our Countrey, which you must not neglect; It is not alwayes time to sow, we must sometimes reape: I would willingly have come unto your lodging, but that perhaps (in so doing) your Master would have suspected that I came purposely to entise you away; wherefore I should bee glad to see you at my lodging, whither this bearer will conduct you; I will in the meane time cause a Breakfast to be provided

vided for you against you come, and if you bring a friend with you, he shall be welcome, and his entertainement shall be the best we can provide. Farewell.

Having sealed this Letter, he directs one of his young Cut-purses unto the house where this *Maire* dwelt; who having received it, failed not to come with his Companion; where being arrived, he was informed that his father was gone into the City, and had left command for them to goe to Breakfast, and not to stay for him: They therefore, being earnestly intreated to sit down, did; but they had not sate long, before little *Iames* entred and saluted them, but they at first knew him not, untill he withdraw-

ing

ing himſelfe into an inner-roome, preſently came forth in his Fryers habit; then were the Lackyes in extreme perplexity, and would have forſaken the Table; but Little *Iames* and his company ſuddenly ſeazed on them, and ſtripping them naked, he firſt laſhed them with Stirrop-leathers; then with a more then barbarous cruelty, cauſed their skins to bee gaſhed, and after, (they being all bloudy) hee put them into a great Tub of feathers, where they had little eaſe; nothing could their cryes availe them, by reaſon that the Houſe ſtood in a by-place, farre from any common reſort; and after having done them many other injuries, hee at midnight

mid-night ſent them away feathered like ſo many Fowle; and immediately he and his company forſooke the houſe.

Having diſcourſed of the manner of his Life, let us come now unto his Death; and ſee, whether it bee as tragick, as the actions of his life did prognoſticate. The fame of this notorious Theef augmented daily in *Paris*, and twenty Leagues round there about; ſo that the Provoſt thought it a part of his duty to make diligent ſearch after him, hee gives ſtrict order therefore to his Troopes diligently to give attendance, with whom hee made a Rode towards the Forreſt of *Fountaine-bleau*, it being the common place where

where he lurked: but the ſubtilty of little *Iames* deceived him; for he having intelligence of it, diſguiſing himſelfe like a country Ploughman, paſſed through the middeſt of them, and came to *Paris*, without being knowne: but in vaine eſcapes he who drawes his puniſhment after him. For he being one day in a Tennis Court, was earneſtly noated by ſome of the Provoſts men, who were going to play, which exceedingly daunted him: yet without ſeeming to feare or ſuſpect any thing, he paſſed by them; but the Officers preſently following him, ſaw him enter into a houſe where a yong Wench dwelt, whom he had debaucht, and and at that time maintained:

whereupon

whereupon, they beſetting the houſe, and one of them knocking at the doore, hee himſelfe came to the Window, and demanded their buſineſſe, (although hee too well knew their intent:) the Officers, without uſing many words, began to break open the doore; when little *Iames* on the other ſide, arming himſelfe with a fierce reſolution, foreſeeing that he could not eſcape death, reſolved to ſell his life at a deare rate, and to that end he barricadoed himſelfe within the houſe, turning the Table and Stooles topſie turvie againſt the doore.

The newes being ſpread that little *Iames* was within the houſe, made diverſe people flock together to ſee the iſſue,

iſſue; among others, many of the Guard haſtned thither, and endeavoured by Ladders to enter through the Window; but Little *Iames* having charged two Piſtols and two Muskets with them, watching his opportunity, when their thoughts were at the higheſt, humbled eleven of them to the ground: his Wench at the ſame time charging as faſt as hee diſcharged: and by that laſt office, teſtified the greatneſſe of her courage and affection. As for him he was ſo animated with rage and diſpaire, that he often thruſt out his head at the Window, endeavouring to haſten his aſſured death, by the honourable blow of ſome Musket, to eeſcape the diſ-honour of the Gallowes. The

The people aſſembled more and more, and about an hundred perſons had now encompaſſed the Houſe, armed with Muskets, Pikes, and Halberds: little *Iames*, after he had diſcharg d divers ſhot, at laſt fell into a ſcarcity of Bullets, which being perceived, ſome mounted upon the Ladders, whilſt others broke open the doores: every one admired the deſperate ſtoutneſſe of this Theefe, in reſiſting ſo many people: but hee reſiſted in vain, for his houre was then come; yet would he not for a long time yeeld himſelfe, but would have killed himſelfe, had not his Wench hindred him: at length, the multitude entring he was forced to yeeld to the fury of the people, who

drag'd him to priſon, where hee lay not long before hee was condemned to bee broken on the Wheele.

The day of his death being ſpread abroad, cauſed a multitude of people to be aſſembled in the place of execution; every one wondring to ſee one ſo yong to have perpetrated halfe ſo many villanies. Some pittied his youth; others rejoyced to ſee him cut off ſo timely: as for me, I muſt confeſſe I was not a jot moved with pitty, but was glad to ſee him puniſhed according to his deſerts. Behold here, the Life and death of this notorious Rogue; whereby it may be conſidered, how much it behooves Parents to chaſtiſe their children in their youth,

and

and not to ſuffer them to live in too great a liberty.

Chap. XI.

The Story of Pallioly *and his Choake-peare.*

WE may compare youth to a young twigge, whoſe tenderneſſe yeelds to the leaſt motion, and is eaſily bended either to the right or left hand; being made fruitful or barren, according to the induſtry or negligence of the Owner. So is it with youth, if he once findes the path of vertue by the care of his Parents, he may be made continue and increaſe in the ſame: but contrary acts produce contrary effects: and

wee cannot expect a greater comfort and joy from those that are vertuous, then sorrow and griefe from those that continue in a vicious course of life. I would therefore advise all Parents and Guardians, to be exceeding carefull and wary in the education of their Children; especially to beware of the poyson of ill example; not suffering them to frequent the company of such as are debaucht: for we naturally follow, with eagernes, those actions which we see authorized by former presidents.

Pallioly was a pretty well favoured youth, a fit lodging to entertaine vertue, as no doubt he would have done, had not the over fond affection of his Father, permitted

ted him to make choice of thoſe courſes which are moſt oppoſite to vertue, and beſt pleaſing our ſenſuall appetites and inclination. His ingenuity was ſuch, that had he beene trained up vertuouſly, his wiſdome might have made him as famous as his wit, wrongly imployed, hath now made him infamous: he was borne neere unto *Thoulouſe*, where he remained not long, but out of a vaine curioſity, and curious vanity, he firſt (forſaking his earthly father, that hee might the better forget his heavenly,) betook himſelfe towards *Paris*, where he abode not long, before his riot and exceſſe had wholly emptied his Purſe of coyne; and his wits being quickned by neceſſity,

he ſtudied to ſupply his want by this following device. Hee firſt makes a paire of hands of Wax, and faſtens them to his ſhoulders ſo artificially, that he could when he pleaſed put them through his Cloak: with theſe hee goes to the Church of S. *Mederic*, where he underſtood that a great concourſe of people would that day be, by reaſon of a learned Man that then intended to preach: being come into the Church, hee eſpies a Gentlewoman with a ſilver Watch by her ſide, who was praying in the body of the Church among many others, who every minute expected the Preachers comming out of the Chancell: by her he kneeles, placing a Book on theſe his artificiall

ficiall hands, and ſeemes to fix his eyes on both : The Gentlewoman wonders at his rudeneſſe, in comming ſo neere her, and conceives it to be only want of breeding in him : ſhe caſts her eyes on him, and ſees him with a Book in his hand and praying : modeſty permitted her to look, but not too earneſtly to gaze on him ; ſhe therefore without miſtruſt holds on her devotion, and he his ; ſhe hers to God, and he his to the Devill, as appeared by the ſequell ; for while ſhe at the elevation of the Hoſt bowes downe to the ground, and in humility kiſſeth it, he nips off the Watch ; and having likewiſe hypocritically kiſſed the ground, departed.

Not long after, he goes to

a Smith of his acquaintance, a very skilfull man in his Trade, and one wholly at his beck, and gives him inſtruction how to make a kinde of Inſtrument, in the likeneſſe of a little Bowle; which by the helpe of ſmall ſprings within it, might open and inlarge it ſelfe; ſo that being clapt into a mans mouth it could not be removed without the Key purpoſely made to that end: this being finiſhed according to his minde, and brought unto him, he termed a Choke-peare; he might have termed it a Devils Peare, for never was there a worſe taſted fruit. *Eridas* a rich Citizen, dwelling about the Royall Exchange, was the firſt who made triall how hard this Peare

Peare was of digeſtion; for *Pallioly* knowing, by common report, that he was rich, choſe out his opportunity when all his houſhold ſervants were buſied in country affaires, and none at home with him but one Lackey; and then being accompanied with three or foure ſuch ſpend-thrifs, as himſelfe, he came to the houſe, and boldly deſired to ſpeake with *Eridas*; the Lackey ſuppoſing them to have been Gentlemen of worth, by reaſon of their decent apparell, went unto his Maſter, and told him that there were ſome Gentlemen below that deſired to ſpeake with him: but *Eridas* comming unto them, and deſiring to know their pleaſure, was taken

aside by *Pallioly*, who in no lesse brief then rough terms, told him, that they were poore Souldiers pinched by poverty, whose wants must be releeved by his excesse, that it was needlesse for him to endeavour resistance, for nothing should satisfie him but money, and of that, no small quantity: *Eridus* (who loved his money as his life, and nothing so well as his life but money, being loth to lose either, and fearing the losse of both,) began to cry for helpe; but at the instant one of them griping him by the throat, made him so gape for breath, that it was no hard matter for the other to give him the Peare; which being entred, his mouth opened so wide, that he was forced

ced by reaſon of ſharp points of iron which were on each ſide of the Peare, to gape as wide (in expectation of eaſe) as poſſibly he could. Thus remained poore *Eridas* like a Statue, not being able to ſpeak a word, or expreſſe his griefe, but by ſignes, whiles they having taken the Keyes out of his pocket, furniſhed themſelves with money, and ſo departed. *Eridas* being rid of his gueſts, would willingly be rid of his torment to: he to that end goes unto his neighbours with a wide mouth, & endeavours to expreſſe by his ſignes, what he was not able to utter in words: they are ready to laugh at his action, before they know the cauſe of his ſorrow; but finding by his

ſigne

ſignes and other circumſtances, in what intollerable torment he then was, they ſeeke to excuſe their former ignorance of his paine, by diligent endeavouring his eaſe: but when neither their Will, or Art, could invent a means to eaſe him, there comes a Porter with a Letter (and therein a ſmall Key incloſed) written to this effect: Sir,

THat you may perceive how tender I am of your welfare and how farre from deſiring your death, I have here incloſed, ſent you a key, wherewith you may open the inſtrument in your mouth; I know it hath put you to ſome torment, yet I pray you judge charitably of the cauſe, and conceive that I remaine

your well-wishing ſervant.

Not long after, he tooke abroad

broad with him a youth (that was not as then become free, nor throughly experienced in his profeſsion) and walked with him to the Market-houſe, where he perceived a plaine Countrey-fellow ſitting in a corner of the ſtreet, compaſſed about with divers pots, whereof ſome were full of rare Fruits, and others emptied by ſale: *Pallioly* taking notice of it, and eſpying the fellows purſe, indifferently well ſtuffit, hanging about his neck and put into his boſome, he commands the Boy to fetch him that purſe if he would be admitted as free of his Society: the Boy thinkes the purſe is in too ſafe keeping for him to compaſſe it, he therefore flatly refuſeth to fetch it, as a thing impoſ-

ſible

ſible to be done, without being perceived; whereupon *Pallioly* bids him learne of him, and without farther delay goes to the fellow, and tels him ſome thorn had fallen in betweene his ſhirt and his back, and deſired his help to pull it out, for that it much troubled him, and ſo bowed himſelfe downewards; the country man in the meane time puts his hand in at his choller, and while he ſeekes to finde the ſtraw that ſo troubled him, *Pallioly* cuts his Purſe, and takes his leave with thanks.

The Boy being encouraged by his good ſucceſſe, ſhortly after endeavoured the like exploit; but being caught in the action, was ſo ſoundly beaten, that hee was ſcarce able

able to returne home: at length, *Pallioly* having committed divers the like thefts, was constrained, for safety of his life, to flye his country; and after a long exile, was killed with a Musket-shot, being too good a punishment for his many mischiefs.

CHAP. XII.

The wicked Servant.

IN the City of Paris there dwelt a Citizen named *Melander*, a man both honest and rich; two qualities seldome meeting in one and the same person: amongst other good qualities wherein hee excelled, he was a great Architect, and much sought after

ter for his skill therein: This man had a ſervant which was married named *Alexis*, a rude and ſurley fellow, whom his maſter *Melander*, for the ſpace of ſix yeres, retained in his ſervice, in regard of his skill in the ſame Art: The great love and favour which his maſter bare towards him, puffed him with the wind of pride and Ambition, which did ſo powerfully reign in him, that deſpiſing the due reſpect wherein he was obliged towards his maſter, he contrived his ruine in this manner.

Melander had a houſe neer *Paris*, wherein he ſometimes recreated himſelfe for the ſpace of ſixe weekes together; *Alexis* who was married and had many children, mooved

mooved with a covetous deſire, reſolved to rob his Maſter of what was moſt precious in it: but as often as this thought preſented it ſelfe, ſo often did he reject it, becauſe hee knew not how, ſafely to contrive the execution of ſo bold and bloody an enterprize, untill that having, by the Devills entiſement, aſſociated himſelf with ſome of the moſt notorious Rogues in *Paris*, he intreated them to meet at a place by him appointed, where hee would open unto them a matter that might conduce both to their owne profit and his: Theſe Rogues hearing him thus ſpeake, promiſed not to faile meeting him at the time and place appointed; where meeting to the number of 5,

(one

(one whereof was a Tapſter, another a Maſon, and the other three neerely allyed) They being ſet at dinner, and having drunk till their brains were well heated, *Alexis* thus began to diſcover unto them his intended plot, ſaying; Sirs, I have a Maſter both rich and wealthy, and methinks, ſeeing that we are poore, we may finde a means by him to raiſe our fortunes, by ſecretly murthering him and ſeazing on his goods and money: theſe words being heard by his Companions, ſome approved his councell, others diſliked it; but at laſt it was concluded betweene them, that *Alexis* ſhould bee chiefe conductor in the enterprize, as being beſt acquainted in the houſe, and

that

that the other five ſhould obey what hee commanded: whereupon one of the five, upon the ſet day, brought a Boat down the River to carry away the booty (for the Houſe of *Melander* was ſeated neere the River) and faſtned it to the bankſide; hee came by night with his companions led by *Alexis* to the ſaid houſe of *Melander*, who was at that time there, it being the time of Vintage.

When they were all come to the doore, *Alexis* knocked, and the ſervant (in regard it was late) demanded who was there, but hearing *Alexis* anſwer, and knowing his voice, ſhee miſdoubting no cauſe of feare, preſently opened it; yet was ſhe much perplexed when ſhe ſaw five other

thers enter with him at ſo unſeaſonable a time. No ſooner were they entred but they killed this ſervant, not giving her ſo much time as to crave helpe either of God or man.

They having thus begun, *Alexis* in a furious haſte leadeth them up into a Chamber, where *Melander* meets them, and demands of *Alexis* what furie had ſo farr tranſported him as to make ſuch a ranſacking of his houſe; To which *Alexis* (having his eyes and eares ſhut from the reſpect which he owed unto his Maſter) anſwered, that he was reſolved to kill him, and that therefore he ſhould recommend himſelfe to God: *Melander* in this extremity knew not what to doe, but being

being reſolved, in his old age, to ſell his life to them at a deare rate, he ſuddenly endeavoured to ſeize upon an Halbert which was at his beds head; but *Alexis* with his Companions, to prevent it, ruſhed upon him, and gave him 20. or 30. blows with Clubs, wherewith they daſht out his brains: behold theſe barbarous cruelties committed by a ſervant; yet that wch followeth ſeemes inhumane.

Melander brought with him into the ſame houſe one of his daughters, exceeding fair, to looke unto his houſhold-affaires: this maid was mariageable, and might have been well matched, had not the cruelty of theſe Rogues cut the threed of her life: Shee lay in the next Chamber

to

to that of *Melander*, when hearing the out-cry of her Father, she hid her selfe betweene the bed and the wall, thinking so to avoid her insuing death: *Alexis* notwithstanding (who was well acquainted with every corner of the House,) having slaine *Melander*, came into the maids chamber, and having espied her, commanded his Companions to draw her forth, who held her whilest he like a bruit beast, ravisht her; and not content with this, hee caused his Companions to doe the like. To expresse this action fully, and the lamentable meanes she made, seeing her selfe brought into this so miserable estate, requires the Pen of one more eloquent. These her lamentati-

tations might have broken an heart of Adamant, but it was ſo farre from molifying of theirs, that they proceeded yet further; for without compaſſion of her tender age, beauty, or Sex, they there bereaved her of her life.

Then *Alexis* being thus maſter of the Houſe, cauſed the doors to be barricadoed, and ſo fell to ranſaking and rifling the whole houſe, preparing themſelvs to be gone the next night: they ſpent the next day in jollity and mirth; but night being come, they having loaded the Boat with the beſt houſholdſtuffe, and themſelves with money, in all, to the value of two thouſand pounds, they about midnight departed, not being perceived of any; which made

made *Alexis* confident of his safety: but God, who seeth both things past, things present, and things to come, would not permit so impious an act to scape undiscovered; it being in vaine for humane wisdome to thinke to avoide the irrevocable Decree of the Almighty.

Two dayes passed wherein was no news of *Melander*, the Vine-dressers wondred to find no body at his house, which made one of them goe to *Paris* to see whether hee were not there; where meeting with *Alexis* (who now lay rioting and swaggering in Taverns) he asked him for his Master, at which demand he seem'd to wonder, saying, That hee supposed to have found him at his Countrey-house;

houſe, and as if he had been much troubled at the news; he ſuddenly forſook his company and haſtened towards the houſe of *Melander*, where he with foure or five others (having for a long time knocked at the doore, and no body anſwering) broke into the houſe, where, upon their firſt entrance, they found the maid (ſtretched forth) dead upon the floore, whereat they were amazed, but *Alexis* chiefly ſeemed to take on, crying out that there had been theeves in the houſe: thence they aſcended up into the chamber, where they found *Melander* likewiſe murdered: Then did *Alexis* fall down and kiſſe the corps of his dead maſter; ſaying, Alas, alas, What doe mine

eyes behold! Is it you my deare master that are so miserably murdered, whilest I by my too long absence could not yeeld thee succour? Ah miserable and unfortunate *Alexis*, How great is this dayes losse? Thou hast lost all thy support and fortune, on which thou hast grounded the anchor of thy hopes; thou hast lost that which thou hast most affected; and to be short, thou hast lost thy most kinde and dearly beloved master. O God, thou revenger of murder, punish this crime, and suffer not the authours to lie concealed. He spake this with so cunning a dissimulation, that those who were present, seeing his Crocodiles-teares, beleeved that those

thoſe bewailing lamentations proceeded from his ſincere love, and extreme affection. Then ſearching the reſt of the chambers, they found the poore daughter of *Melande* likewiſe maſſacred, whereat he again powred forth a torrent of teares, perſwading the ſtanders by that his griefes were much increaſed by this wofull ſpectacle.

The bruit and rumour of this maſſacre was quickly ſpread abroad, which cauſed a great concourſe of people to come ſee ſo bloudy and ſeldome heard of tragedie: *Alexis* in the meane time remaines in the houſe as maſter of the ſame; receives all thoſe that come to ſee it, and by his unuſuall ſadneſſe, en-

deavours to cloke his treachery, and to make it an argument of his fidelity; but some wiser then others, prying further into this busines, began not onely to doubt of his fidelity, but secretly seemed to accuse him to be authour of the murder; some said that those teares were but fained, and that so many sobs and sighs in a meere servant, no way allied unto him, could not proceed but from a deep dissimulation: others excused him, and said, that *Alexis* having for a long time been in the service of *Malander*, with hope by him to better his fortune, had just cause exceedingly to grieve at this losse so disadvantagious to his good; but among all, some pleaded so strongly a-

gainst

gainſt him, that he was by their advice ſeized upon and impriſoned; at which he being much aſtoniſhed, called the heavens to be witneſſes, and revengers of their tyrannie; vowing that he had never the leaſt thought of ſo barbarous a cruelty; but they notwithſtanding having imp: iſoned him, prepared his enditement, and made diligent enquiry where and how he had ſpent the laſt two dayes; but the murderers had ſo ſecretly managed their affairs, that no man could depoſe any thing againſt them, God onely and their own conſciences accuſing them, ſo that the priſoner was for that time ſet at liberty.

He was no ſooner diſmiſt, but he began to blaze abroad

his innocencie, and accuſe them who had impriſoned him of injuſtice: ſix moneths were already paſt wherein this crime was as it were ſmothered in ſilence, and buried in oblivion, and the murderers were confident that it would be no more queſtioned; but they were much deceived in their opinion, for not long after, foure of the ſaid murderers (which were the Father, ſonne, ſonne in law, and a Maſon, as we have ſaid) met in a certain village neere *Paris*, and being willing to renew their ancient leagues, they went to the next Taverne, where they began to carouſe and be merry; but as they were in the midſt of their mirth, there came ten or twelve of the Mar-

Marſhalls men, who being wearied (with ſome purſuit which they had made) came by chance to refreſh themſelves to the ſame place; and being entred, they put off their coats, meaning to ſit down at the end of the ſame table; then the marks of their office appearing, put theſe cruell confederates in ſuch a feare, as if a thunderbolt had fallen among them; and all their bold mirth is now turned into whiſpering, and their joy into ſorrow, they are hungry but cannot eat, and a cold trembling ſo poſſeſſeth them thorowout, that they ſeeme rather dead then alive, imagining theſe men purſued no other but themſelves.

Theſe officers called for

wine, and intended onely their owne recreation, meaning nothing againſt them; but they much wondred that upon the ſudden thoſe that ſate neere them had taken their flight, and left their wine and meat on the table, departing without paying the ſhot. All which the officers well noting, demanded of the Hoſt, what was the cauſe of their ſudden flight; to which the Hoſt ſaid, that he could not chuſe but much wonder thereat, and told them what kinde of people they were, and how well furniſhed with money, being formerly very poore and needy people.

Then the officers conſulted together, and concluded that there was ſomething more

more then ordinary in the matter, and that theſe men (their conſciences accuſing them of ſome offence by them committed) and fearing them as officers, had taken their flight, and that it was requiſite they ſhould be purſued; which being reſolved on, they preſently put in execution: and parting themſelves, ſome one way, and ſome another, by their diligence and ſpeed overtook them, they then ſtayed them in the Kings Name, and perſwading them to confeſſe the cauſe of their flight, they told them that if they would not by fair meanes, they would conſtraine them by force, and thereupon took the eldeſt of them and gave him the Strapado, which

made the old fellow quickly confeſſe that they had all foure deſerved death, namely, by the murdering of *Melander:* at the which his companions grew inraged, he with the reſt having before reſolved to endure all the tortures that could be inflicted upon them, rather then they would confeſſe: moreover, the ſaid old man confeſſed that he had been the cauſe of the deaths of threeſcore perſons, whom he at ſeverall times taking into his barge, under pretence of paſſing them over the River, had tied ſtones about their necks, and having ſo drowned them, at night took them up, and ſo ſtripped them: he moreover related unto them, that he had one day moſt wic-

wickedly killed a boy about the age of seventeen yeers, who had no more then twelve pence about him, and that of all the thefts and murders he had committed, he had never grieved but for that, as being the cause of the death of one of the most comely and hopefull young men that ever he saw.

Alexis having notice of their taking, (for it is to be noted, that of foure which were pursued, one escaped, and advised *Alexis* and his companion, who was a Mason, to take their flight) *Alexis* fled into *England*, and the Mason into *Touraine*, where we will anon overtake them. The officers having thus done their devoire, led the offenders unto *Paris*, where they

they were condemned first to have their hands cut off, and their bodies to be broken on the wheele before the house of *Melander*, which was performed in the sight of a multitude of people.

One of those (which were thus broken) confessed, that he was accustomed in the woods neer *Paris*, to strangle the passengers with a cord, which he for that purpose carried about him; and that when any demanded of him whither he went, he would answer, he went to buy a calf, shewing unto them the cord.

We will now return to our Renegadoes; he which was at *Tours*, having escaped the danger which threatned him, had changed his name, and lived by his trade, being wel-

welcome among others of the ſame profeſſion in thoſe parts, by reaſon of his great skill therein: he being at length become amorous of a young maid in the countrey, by the conſent of her parents married her: Behold him at the height of his deſires; but yet ſo troubled in his conſcience, that he could not reſt, for the bloud of thoſe innocent ſouls, which he had ſhed, ceaſed not to cry for vengeance: but the miſchiefs which troubled him, happened chiefly, in that he (either in malice or jollity) ſo charmed the Cod-peece-point of one of his neighbours, that he could not make uſe of his own wife, which being done, he came about three or foure dayes after unto the married man,

man, and told him that he partly knew that his point had been knit with a charming knot, and that if he would give him a reasonable reward, he would untie it: The man who desired nothing more then to be freed of this infirmity, yet without thinking that the Mason had charmed it, promised to give him twenty shillings in present, and twenty shillings more when he was eased thereof; so he received the twenty shillings, and his neighbour being cured, he demanded of him the other twenty shillings according to promise; who then called him Sorcerer, and told him that he was a Witch, and had bewitched him, and deserved to be burnt; the Mason not being

being able to beare ſuch language, called him in queſtion for ſcandalizing his reputation.

The Judges having ſeriouſly conſidered the matter, by a common conſent agreed that hee was the ſole cauſe whence proceeded this evill; which being after a ſort prooved (for that about ten dayes after the marriage, the ſaid Maſon had publikely bragged unto ſome that hee had done it, which was prooved againſt him) he was condemned to be whipt through the Market-place and then baniſhed; which to avoid, he preſently appeales to the Parliament of *Paris*, whither he was ſent, and where hee found his death: The time being come wherein he muſt

be

be recompenſed according to his merit; for being come to *Paris*, he is heard of by ſome of the inhabitants of the ſaid Village, who preſently gave notice and advertiſed the heires of *Melander*, who ſo eagerly purſued him, that by the depoſition of the former witneſſes, he was forced to confeſſe the deed, and ſo was judged to the ſame puniſhment as his companions, which laſt Execution was done, in the yeere 1616. five yeeres after the murder of *Melander*.

There remaines now onely *Alexis* who paſſing by *Calis*, it happened (as theeves cannot forbeare miſdoing) that he entred the houſe of a rich Merchant, and ſtole from him a great ſumme of money,

money, while he was at Maſſe: he is thereupon taken, and condemned to be hanged. Thus were they (by the Divine juſtice) deſervedly put to death, who ſo cruelly had murdered *Melander*.

CHAP. XIII.

The dangerous adventures, and miraculous eſcapes of Colyrias.

Colyrias was deſcended of a good family in *Guien*, and of a father whoſe vertue might have been a paterne unto him in his actions, had he not been withdrawne by the over-commanding power

power of the destinies. This young man (his father being dead) was committed to the tuition of his Vncle; who slacking the severity which at first he shewed, soone after permitted him to follow his licentious desires, as do most Tutors and Guardians of children in these dayes; they are forward to receive the benefit of their place, but backward to performe the duty. This is the bane of youth, when Parents are too indulgent to their children, and Tutors or Guardians to their charge, suffering them freely to exercise whatsoever is dictated unto them by the pravity of their owne dispositions.

Colyrius was of such a gadding humor, that he resolved (with-

(without his Vncles consent) to make a Voyage towards *Bourdeaux*; and for that purpose pilfred from his Vncle a round sum of money, and therewith privily departed: He had not sojourned there long, but he was taken with a desire of seeing *Paris*, but before he arived there, hee took up his lodging in a Town, seated upon the *Loire*, at an Inne, the Host whereof prooved a meere Cutthroat: here *Colyrias* with two others, by him accidentally met, having supped together, were conducted all to one Chamber where were three Beds; every one makes choise of his owne, and having lockt the Chamber doore, they all betooke them to their rest:

But

But the Hoſt having a ſecret doore which entred into the ſame chamber, about midnight, when he thought that a deepe ſleepe had ſeazed upon their ſenſes, ſoftly entred, and comming into their chamber approached their beds; *Colyrias* being by chance awake, ſaw them paſſing along the midſt of the chamber, and at length ſtaying at the next bed, which made him jealous that they had ſome attempt againſt their lives: hee therefore began by ſnorting, to make ſhew that hee was in a deepe ſleepe, although hee were indeed much perplexed with the apprehenſion of an enſuing miſchiefe.

The Hoſt having viſited the

the bed of his companions, came and handled his fleſh alſo; and having ſo done, hee heard them ſay, that his fleſh was but tough, and that the other two would proove daintie meat, they then went to the others beds, and (like bloudy miſcreants) miſerablie killed the companions of *Colyrias*; whereat hee was ſo amazed, that hee knew not what courſe to take, for hee expected the ſame entertainment, as had his poore companions; yet beyond his thought was the Hoſt more mercifull to him, then unto the others, for having diſpoſed of the bodies of his companions, he came unto him, and having taken away from him his

his moneys, which amounted to twenty pounds and upwards, causing him to arise, he conducted him thorow a gallery, wherein he had made a trap, in the forme of a draw-bridge, which by the meanes of a barre of iron fastened under, it would rise and fall with the least weight that came upon it; *Colyrias* being come upon it, immediatly fell down into an unfrequented street, where while he with teares lamented his hard misfortunes, two theeves perceiving him, demanded of him the cause of his complaints, whereupon he declared unto them all his former accidents, whereunto they answered, that ill fortune indeed had given him just cause of sorrow; but

that

that patience ought to ſerve him as a buckler againſt ſo many miſeries; and that they ſo much pitied him, that if he would he ſhould participate of their better fortunes: upon this promiſe he followed them, little thinking that he had fallen out of the frying pan into the fire; but being come into the next ſtreet, they there for a time ſtayed, expecting an opportunity to take ſome booty, they then going up another ſtreet, came unto a well, where one of them, deſirous to quench his thirſt, found that the buckets were wanting, which made him intreat *Colyrias* to deſcend into the well for water; but he fearing that they would play ſome ſcurvy trick with him,

at

at first refused; yet at length, constrained by their earnest intreaties, he adventured it: he was no sooner down, but the watch appeared in sight of his companions, whereupon they forsaking the rope by which *Colyrias* held, fled; so that had it not been that *Colyrias* had taken footing upon a stone, which jutted forth of the side of the well, he had there perished: as soon as the watch came unto the well, one of the companie being desirous likewise to quench his thirst (it being in the heat of Summer) thinking that the bucket had been in the bottome of the water, began to draw at the rope; *Colyrias* (thinking that his companions had drawn) according to their promise, seazing

ſeazing upon the rope, was by little and little lifted up; but he finding the weight heavier then was uſuall, called unto his companions for help; ſaying, That ſurely there was ſomething more then water in the bucket; at length, by their united forces, they drew up *Colyrias*; when they ſaw him appear at the top of the Well, they being terrified, ranne away as if the Devill had been at their heels, ſo ſuddenly looſing their hold of the rope, that if he had not caſt his hand quickly upon the mouth of the Well, he could not have eſcaped the danger of tumbling in again.

It happened, that about

four or five dayes before the arrivall of *Colyrias*, that the Bishop of the Dioceſſe being dead, was buried with a Ring and rich Croſier ſtaff in the preſence of theſe his companions, which made them earneſtly deſire by ſome plot or other to ſteal them: and to that end deſired the aſſiſtance of *Colyrias*, whereunto, though unwilling, he was conſtrained to give his conſent: they then came unto the Church door, which being opened by Picklocks, they entred, ſhewing him the Tombe, and threatening him with death if he refuſed to go in, or failed to bring unto them the Ring and Croſier: whereupon, they having with iron-crows, and other inſtruments, lifted up the

ſtone

ſtone of the vault, he entred; and putting his hands upon the Coffin, pulled up the planck that covered him, and taking the Croſier and Ring away, he came unto his companions, and told them, that as for the Croſier, he had brought it; but as for the Ring, it was not to be found in the Coffin; thinking by this means to keep the Ring for himſelf: but they, who had been at the Biſhops Funerall, and knew aſſuredly that the Ring was incloſed in the Coffin, ſo threatened *Colyrius*, that he was conſtrained to go into the Vault the ſecond time; where, making as if he ſearched farther, and having told them, that certainly it was not there, they forthwith let fall

the ſtone, and buried him in the ſepulchre with the Corps of the dead Biſhop; *Colyrius* had already eſcaped two imminent dangers, but now thought aſſuredly, he ſhould never eſcape the third, but that he ſhould periſh in the vault.

Whileſt he was in this great perplexitie, there came two Prieſts, who being poſſeſſed with the ſacrilegious deſire of robbing the Biſhops ſepulchre, lifted up the ſtone, and one of them being about to enter, *Colyrius* caught hold of his legs, who imagining that the dead Biſhop was revived, and had caught him by the legs, being filled with fear and amazement, he ſtrived to withdraw his legs,

and ſo drew out *Colyrias*, who imagining his conceit, ranne after him to the place where he entred; and got forth, and having eſcaped out of the Church, he haſted out of the town with the Ring, that was worth two hundred crowns, ſo that he returned home with ſome recompence for the many dangers and miſeries that he had already ſuffered.

Chap. XIV.

One often cheated.

IN the yeer 1615. there was in the town of *Amiens*, a young man whoſe name was Dorilis, who

forsook his Parents by reason of some private quarrels which he had with his Brethren, but before his departure, he stole out of his fathers Cabinet, the summe of twenty pounds and upwards; and having so done, went towards *Paris*, but as he travelled, he overtook a Merchant that went to the fair of St *Germain*, with whom he kept company untill they came unto their journeys end; but they there leaving one the other, took up their severall lodgings. This *Dorilis* being of a sottish and stupid nature, and little acquainted with the crafts and subtilties of the world, being newly arrived at the Citie, went from street to street to view the excellencie of

the buildings and other rarities: his gazing about made him ſoon taken notice of by ſome Cheaters, who as ſoon as they ſaw him, judged it an eaſie matter to entrap him; one of them to that end comes towards him with a great Packet, with this ſuperſcription;

Let this be delivered with truſt to the Ladie Robecour, *dwelling at* Aberis, *&c.*

And having delivered unto him this Packet, he earneſtly intreated him to tell him to whom it was directed, ſignifying that is was his chance to finde it, and that there was ſomewhat incloſed in the ſame.

Dorilis, who could not dive into the depth of this miſtery, read the ſuperſcription, and at the requeſt of him, who delivered him the Packet, openeth it; and therein findes a ſmall chain of gold, with theſe words;

Madam,

HAving by your Letters, underſtood of the happy ſucceſſe of your marriage, and that you have ſo ſoon perfected ſo good a work; it would have ſeemed that I had not participated of your joy, if I ſhould not have teſtified it with this chain, it is but of ſmall value in reſpect of your merits, it coſt onely fifty crowns, this is a ſmall gift in compariſon of that which my affection would have offered. Nevertheleſſe oblige me with your acceptation, and I ſhall truly reſt

Your Kinſman A. de Robecour.

Dorilis having read this Letter, wiſhed to have been ſo fortunate, as to have found it; whereunto the other anſwered, that if he had a liking unto the chain, he ſhould have it upon reaſonable tearms, what it coſt appeareth by the Letter, and therefore in regard it was not fit for his wearing, he would part with it for the one half that it coſt: at length *Dorilis* after ſome arguing gave him ten crowns for it.

This firſt encounter was but a forewarning of his future miſhap; He nevertheleſſe, not ſuſpecting any deceit, bleſſed the houre wherein hee lighted upon this good fortune: not long after, as hee was paſſing

thorow the Faire, he eſpied ſome gameſters playing at Dice, whereupon he drew towards them, and deſired to bee halfe with one of them that played, whereby hee quickly gained a Noble; this provoked *Dorilis* to play for himſelfe, thinking thereby to better his fortune: but theſe two Cheaters (who had at the beginning fained themſelves to be ſtrangers one to the other) having perceived that he ſetled himſelf to play, handled their falſe Dice ſo cunningly, that they ſuddenly gained from him three pounds, and had without doubt got more, if the earneſt deſire of ſeeing the Faire had not withdrawne him. Thence *Dorilis* proceeded farther into the Fair,

when

when he (according to his rude cuſtome) gazing about him, eſpied a Lottery; whereunto he drew neer, and beheld the Adventurers; where being noted by ſome Cheaters, who had complotted with the Maſter to be permitted to gain when they would, he was by one of them intreated to participate with him in this Adventure, which after *Dorilis* (fearing again to be cheated) refuſed, upon this anſwer, the Cheater having drawn, openeth the Billet, and findeth therein a ſilver Baſon; which he having received of the Maſter of the Lottery, ſhewed to *Dorilis*, reproaching him for refuſing to be halfes with him in the Lot, and ſo to have gained the one half of

the

the Ewer, whereupon *Doris* induced by this mans imaginary gain, begins to draw Lots, and ceased not untill he had emptied his purse of twentie crowns, and yet received not the worth of twentie pence, notwithstanding all this, he was not any whit dejected, being confident that his Gold chain would make him a saver.

After he had beene in divers parts of *Paris*, and had seene all that which was most worthy of note in the city, he returned unto his Inne, where he no sooner entred, but he perceived that he had lost his purse: then did the long way which he had to go, the hazards of sickneſſe which

he

he might fall into, and a thousand other misfortunes came into his minde, yet did the finding of his chain in the other pocket, in part qualifie the extremity of his griefe, but Fortune had destinated him more crosses: For as he was in the Inne bemoaning his misfortunes, a Cheater, that was in the next chamber, hearing him, came, and seeming to pitie him, perswaded him by any meanes not to suffer griefe to have the predomination; telling him that teares were but in vaine, since they could not redeem that which was already lost, and promising to him if occasion required, the assistance both of his purse and person; and using many other good words, per-

perſwaded *Dorilis* to Suppe with him, which hee condiſcended unto: ſo that Supper being ended, when he expected that he who had invited him would have paid for his Supper, he upon the ſudden found his friend departed (who under pretence of going to make water had left him) and having long expected his returne in vaine, his former loſſes made him jealous of his Cloke, which he ſearching for found wanting: Now was his onely hope in his chaine of Gold; but that being offered as a Gage for his expences, was rejected as counterfeit: then was hee wholly oppreſſed with ſorrow, but not without juſt cauſe, for he on the morrow was conſtrained to exchange

exchange his rich apparell for farre meaner, thereby to discharge his former expences, which made him (like the prodigall sonne) to returne home something wiser, but farre poorer then when he forsooke his father.

Chap. XV.

A strange Robbery of a Merchants Shop.

IN the Country of *Burgain* there lived one named *Rapigny*, who from his youth made a practise of Theeving, for which he had been often questioned: But this interior appetite of Robbing had so possest him, that he forsooke his Countrey of *Burgundy* to goe

goe unto *Paris*, where hee thought hee might with more ſafety exerciſe his ſlights; during his abode there, he committed ſo many robberies, that his name became dreadfull to the citizens, and their whole diſcourſe was of his notorious deceits; few of the city had ſeene him, his common walkes being in the night, and thoſe that did ſee him, did little think that he whom they ſaw, was the man of whom they ſo much talked.

One day being deſirous to put one of his inventions in practiſe, He being like a Tradeſman apparelled, came unto a rich Merchant named *Syriander*, and told him that he underſtood

that

that he returned much ware into the Countie of *Burgundie* to one Maſter *Vernon*, a man with whom hee was well acquainted; wherefore he (having fained that hee had a Trunk full of Commodities to ſend to the ſame man) ſignified that he ſhould be much obliged unto him, if hee would bee pleaſed to convay his alſo thither, whereunto this Merchant (little miſtruſting his quality) condiſcended.

Rapignus having thus farre proceeded, cauſed a Trunk to bee brought unto him ſo cunningly contrived, that it might bee eaſily unlocked by one within; he therefore cauſeth a little boy (an Apprentice in his theeving trade) to be put within it, and having

having charged him upon his life not to ſpeake or make any noiſe in the Trunk, but about mid-night to come foorth, and having opened the ſhop doores, to give entrance to his companions, he locked him therein; and having ſo done, he cauſed this Trunk to be brought to the houſe of *Syriander*, who not doubting of what was incloſed therein, received it, and placed it in his ſhop.

Evening was already paſt, and night, the favourer of theeves, had with her black mantle overſpread the earth, when this young Boy (perceiving by the quietneſſe of all things, that the houſhold ſervants were long before retired, and therefore in all likelihood in a deep ſleep) gently

gently opened the Trunk wherein he was incloſed, but comming to the door found not the key therein as he expected, at which being much perplexed, he was about to give over his enterprize, and to retire into his ſhell; but he at length bethought himſelf of opening the ſhop windows, which he performed with much dexterity, none awaking at the noiſe; and having let in his companions, who there attended him, every one furniſhed himſelf with a parcell of the beſt wares in the ſhop, and ſo departed. The theft was ſoon found out, but it could not be known who the Actours were till four yeers after, one of them being to be executed at the *Greave* for ſome other

other robberies, confeſſed the fact, and diſcovered his companions, who were ſerved in the ſame kinde.

Chap. XVI.

The cunning eſcape of a Cheater out of priſon.

IT is not long ſince a theef was brought into the Biſhops Priſon in *Paris*, who had committed divers robberies, among the reſt, he had (but 15. dayes before) ſtollen to the value of 100 l. in jewels, from a Goldſmith, for the cõpaſſing wherof, he practiſed this enſuing device.

He had formerly taken notice that there was in this Goldſmiths ſhop a ſmall casket

casket of Rings, and Diamonds, which he much desired the fingering of, but being barren a long time of any invention, whereby he might gain it, at last he went unto a Joyner, to whom hee gave directions for the making of a casket like unto that which the Goldsmith had; which being made according to his minde, he one day having perceived that there was at that time in the house but one servant, and a little boy, son to the Goldsmith, entred into the shop carrying this Box under his cloke; when he came in, he desired them to shew him choice of Rings, whereupon the patern of this new casket was presently fetcht, but he perceiving that he could not easily

easily bring to passe his intended project whilest that both of them were in the shop, he delivered the boy a piece of gold to change, and in the mean time causing the Box to be opened, he cheapened the Rings; and seeming to mislike of the price, he desireth the servant to shew him others, but whilest he turned his back to fetch them, this fellow taking his opportunity, suddenly exchanged Boxes, putting his Box in the place of the other; then faining that he could not tarry to look upon the other Rings, in regard he promised to give a friend the meeting where he knew he was by that time expected; he desired the Apprentice to keep the money (which the other

other was not yet come with) till he came again, and ſo departed: But he joyed not long in this cheat, but within fifteen dayes after was taken, and had no doubt at that time been executed, had he not had ſome extraordinary means to eſcape; as thus, he ſent a boy to one in the city, an Abettour of his ſtollen goods, to entreat him that he would make for him an Hare-Pie, and accompany him at the eating of it, which he (mindfull of his former familiarity) performed; and having brought it to the Jayle, where his friend was, did there ſup with him & the Jaylor. Having ſupped, his friend called him aſide, and told him that the cauſe of beſpeaking this Pie, was

to

to prevent any miſtruſt which the Jayler might have had, had he not ſeen this; he having ſo ſaid, proceeded to a ſecond requeſt, which was to work his delivery out of this place, by a plot which hee would ſuggeſt; whereunto this Citizen promiſing his beſt endeavour, he ſignified unto him that the only way for his eſcape, was by ſending unto him another Pie made like the former, where in ſtead of fleſh, ſhould put a long rope, and ſome Picklock inſtruments; which being made, and ſent according to his appointment, he opened it, and taking forth the things incloſed, made ſo good uſe of them, that hee the ſame night eſcaped; but having

eſcaped,

eſcaped, hee was the ſame night apprehended, for a robbery ſuddenly committed after his departure out of priſon, and being brought to the ſame place, was ſhortly after, for this and his former robberies, executed.

Chap. XVII.

A Theefe caught in a trap.

A Certain Gentleman of Poictiers, named *Morindor*, came to *Paris* about the diſpatch of ſome buſines of importance, which he had at Court; and had brought with him ſtore of moneys, as well to diſcharge the expences of his journey, as alſo to disburſe for other particular occaſions, where

being arrived, another gentleman of his Countrey ſent unto him, by an expreſſe meſſenger, to intreat him that he would be very carefull of a great ſuit which he had then depending in the great Chamber.

Morindor, who would not diſoblige his friend, tooke this cauſe in hand; and although he were ſomewhat hindered by his own particular occaſions, he notwithſtanding ceaſed not to ſollicite in his friends behalfe: but whileſt he paſſed and repaſſed thorow the Palace, and that he thus ſollicited, both for his own and friends right, he was perceived by two Cutpurſes, who reſolved among themſelves, upon the firſt opportunity, to

ſhew

ſhew him a trick of their activity; and to that end, they divers times drew neer him, but durſt not adventure, a hand into his pocket, by reaſon that he knowing that the Palace was alwayes frequented by ſuch a baſe crew, was very circumſpect to avoid all ſuch miſchievous accidents: but the ſubtilty and ſleight of theſe Cutpurſes, ſurpaſſing his care and diligence, he was at length ſurpriſed, for he being one day in a throng in the great Chamber, was rudely thruſt by theſe fellowes, and while hee looked about to ſee whence that thruſting and violent motion proceeded, one of them thruſt his hand into his pouket, and ſtole thence his purſe, which hee

knew not till two houres after, when he (intending to have paid for ſome bookes, which he had bought in the Gallerie of Booke-ſellers) miſſed it; but could not on the ſudden gueſſe at what time hee was ſo robbed by them, what in this caſe to doe hee knew not; nature had indued him with more wit then to chafe & fume at that he could not remedy, or by impatience, for looſing a little, to injure him who gave him all.

At laſt (he being well acquainted with the craftineſſe of the times) he reſolved to be revenged, wherfore he being willing to requite them, went to a Smith, of whom he beſpake a ſpringe to put into his pocket which might ſhut of it ſelfe, and ſuddenly

catch whatſoever touched it: The Smith, being thorowly experienced in his Art, made him one of the faireſt, and moſt ingenious pieces that could be deviſed, and that with ſuch Art and cunning, that it far exceeded the manner of *Morindors* expreſſion; who having contented the Smith, cauſed it to be placed in the ſame pocket from whence his purſe was ſtollen; & having ſo done, he walked in the Palace foure dayes, but on the fift day, he viewing the portraictures of the kings which are upon the Pillars in the Hall, was perceived by the ſame cutpurſe; who incouraged by the eaſineſſe of his firſt purchaſe, he reſolved to adventure again, then drawing neere to him,

and watching his time when the people came thronging upon him out of the great Chamber, he gently put his hand into his pocket, but it no ſooner entred, but this ſpring disbanded, ſo that where he thought to take, he was taken.

Morindor, who felt the ſpringe disband, ſeemed not to take notice of the Cutpurſe, but began to take his walke from the one ſide of the Hall unto the other, thence into the great Chamber, the Galleries of the Palace, and ſo about; the Cutpurſe (though unwilling) was forced to follow him foot by foot, for hee could not withdraw himſelfe hee was ſo ſtraitly faſtened in the ſpringe; ſometime *Morindor*

dor taking a ſhort turne, would ſuddenly thruſt away the Cutpurſe, as though he came too neere him; then did the other, with an humble countenance, entreat him not to diſgrace him further, but to accept of ſome indifferent ſatisfaction from him. To which *Morindor* ſeeming deafe, continued on his walke, ſo that it was not long before that many of the Palace perceived it, who gladly flocked together to ſee him led after that ſort. At length, *Morindor* having for a long time walked from place to place, and by the ſhortnes of his turns lengthened the pains of the Cutpurſe: Hee turned himſelfe, and with a cholericke viſage ſaid unto him, What makes you

follow me ſtep by ſtep Maſter Theefe? It was you Sir that ſtole away my purſe, and you ſhall deerly anſwer it: At theſe words the other fell on his knees, and begging pardon, faithfully promiſed to reſtore it, if hee would releaſe him; but *Morindor* would not take words for deeds, but kept the Cutpurſe thus ſhamefully impriſoned, untill his Purſe was brought unto him by one of the theeves Comrades, who had thither accompanied him: Thus was the deceiver deceived.

CHAP.

Chap. XVIII.

The Story of Amboise la Forge a notable Cutpurse.

Amboise la Forge was brought up in *Picardie*, and as he increased in yeers, so did he in wickednesse; he began with Pins, and ended with Pounds, which had weighed him downe to hell, had not his present repentance, and temporall punishment, by Gods mercy prevented the eternall, which we charitably conceive, because as the one halfe of his life was spent in evill, so the the other half was worn out in punishment; The one you shall see in the beginning, the other in the end of this ensuing History.

This young fellow being past his childish tricks, as stealing Pins, Points, and the like, begins his youthfull pranks thus:

He goes one night to a Farmors house, and there (having formerly noted where his Poultry usually roosted) steales a Turkey, two Capons, & foure Pullets; which he having conveyed away (by his Companion in evill) he the same night breakes open a Bakers shop, furnisheth himselfe with a sufficiency of Bread; and afterwards, passing by a Taverne, and perceiving the Grates of the Cellar to be large, made shift to wreath himselfe in, where having found three or foure good Flaggons, he fills them with Wine, and having made him-

himſelf frollike, refills them: The next morning hee goes early unto this Farmor, Baker, and Vintner, and kindly invites them to dinner, they wonder at his free entertainment, and wiſh each of them, that what they had loſt the laſt night had been there likewiſe, as more fitting for their bellies then for thoſe Rogues that ſtole it: On that condition, replyed *Amboiſe*, you would (I beleeve) forgive them their riot; whereunto they cheerefully anſwered, with all their hearts; but (ſaid one of them) farewell it, what we have loſt there, wee have gained here: Tis true indeed (ſaid *Amboiſe*) for what I ſtole from each of you, your ſelves have among you eaten, which I wiſh may

do

do you much good: at which words, each of them tooke the more especiall notice, of what they were entertained with; and the Farmer found that he had the like Poultrie, as he that night had loſt, and the Baker the like bread, and the Vintner the like wine ſerved in in the like Pots; all which being conſidered, they found that his words were in earneſt, and ſo they tooke them; for they ſuddenly riſing, would have forſaken the room, in the heat of choler, but he perſwades them that they could not eat their meat in better company, imitating therein the young Greek, who having received particular notice that his Citizens had loſt the battell, came into the market-place,

and

and proclamed that they had got the victory, upon which falſe rumor, he cauſed among the citizens a publike joy for three dayes, but when the pitifull newes of their overthrow was brought by ſome ſouldiers, fled from the battell, every one was ready to kill this falſe meſſenger, who had cauſed them to be filled with joy, in a time when they had juſt cauſe to be drowned in tears and ſorrows: but he anſwered them, that they had more cauſe to thanke him, then to murmure againſt him, becauſe that he had changed their cauſe of diſcomfort, into comfort, and their mourning into a publike rejoycing.

But this firſt exploit of youth, was nothing in reſpect of what he did after, for it

was

was not long before he came to one of the faireſt women of the Pariſh, and ſought earneſtly to entice her to lewdneſſe; but what he could not by faire words effect, hee at laſt obtained upon the promiſe of twenty Crownes, which he (as then being not able to give) compaſſed by this meanes: He goes ſpeedily to a rich Churle of the Pariſh, and deſired to know of him, whether hee could help him to five Crownes in Gold for Silver; whereunto he anſwered, That he had ſo much, but was loath to part with it: whereupon *la Forge* promiſed him two ſhillings on condition that hee would bring it to his lodging, and let him have it in exchange for as much Silver as it came unto:

unto: This Clowne (thinking on the gaine which hee should make by the exchange) condiscended to follow *la Forge* unto his lodging, where the money being told out on a Table before two others of *la Forge* his Society, he suddenly takes it up, and casts down an acquittance of five Crownes in lieu of it, and having so done departed; The Country-fellow followed him and demanded his money, but *la Forge* answered, That he owed him long since that money, and that now paying it, hee had given him an acquittance for his discharge, and desired to know what he would have more. By this meanes he got the five Crownes, and by those Crowns he attained e-

ven

ven to the glutting of his luſtfull deſires, for it was not long before he grew willing to ſurrender up that coſtly place to another; yet it vexed him that he had parted with his mony on ſo light termes; and bethinkes himſelfe on a courſe how he might regain his 5 crowns ſo ill beſtowed; to that end, he comes to his Lemman, & told her he was purſued (for a ſmall debt) by a company of Sergeants, and that he ſhould be conſtrained, either to pawne, or ſell, a cloake worth foure or five pounds, unleſſe ſhe would furniſh him with five or ſix crowns; he ſignifies, that if ſhee would aſſiſt him, hee would leave his cloke, and ever reſt indebted unto her: ſhe conceiving that ſhe could

not

not poſſibly looſe any thing by the lending him the money, as long as ſhe had ſo good a pawne; wiſhed him to bring his cloke, and hee ſhould not fail to receive the money, both which was done accordingly. *La Forge* ſoone after had notice that this Goſſip had invited ſome of her friends, lately married, to a feaſt; thither hee comes, and deſires the husband of this dainty dame, to help him to a cloke which his wife had borrowed for him when he went to the wedding of his invited gueſts; The good man of the houſe anſwered, hee heard not of it, and for his part he had no uſe of it if his wife had borrowed it: hee therefore asketh his wife whether

ſhe

ſhe had borrowed any ſuch cloke for him, or not, which ſhe (ſuſpecting that he meant to cheat her of her cloke and money) flatly denied even in his preſence, whereat *la Forge* being inraged, deeply ſwore that ſhe had it, and therefore deſired him that he would be pleaſed to looke in her trunke, and hee made no doubt, but that hee ſhould there finde it: the good man being amazed at the confidence of the theefe, went and looked in her trunke according to his deſire, and there found to his great diſcontent, and her diſgrace, what he there looked for; the greatneſſe of which diſcredit, in the preſence of her beſt friends, ſo grieved, that ſhe pined away with extreme griefe.

After

After this he goes towards *Paris*, and by the way overtaking a young Scholer going thither to ſee his friends, he diſcourſed with him until he came to the corner of a great wood; then he reſolutely told him, that either he muſt part with his ſuit of clothes or his life; the poore young man ſoone made his choice, and quickly gave his clothes that he might after live to enjoy others; ſo this our raſcall entered into *Paris* all new, where he was not long, but by reaſon of his many bold, and impudent prancks, he was thought fit to be choſen Captaine, or Ringleader of the infamouſly famous crew of Cutpurſes, Cheaters, and the like; the which place that he might the better

ter

ter seeme to deserve, he took upon him to cheat, or by some other way to surprize, one *Messager*, a crafty fellow, who could never bee circumvented by any; although that divers of his predecessours had endeavoured with the hazard of their necks, and some with their lives to have done it. He having heard of the warinesse of this fellow, began to consider with himselfe, that he was not to be surprised by any ordinary way, wherfore setting his wits on the tenter-hookes, hee at length overreached him thus.

La Forge understanding that this *Messager* was accustomed daily to go over the new Bridge, he came thither very well apparelled, & long expected

expected his comming; at length hee perceived him viewing the Samaritane, and the little garden below it, whereupon he tooke occasion to give him the Bonjour, and to entertaine him with other discourses concerning the affairs of the time; *Messager* nothing suspecting him, because of his rich apparell, as they were in talke, there draws neer unto them, one of *la Forges* companions, being very well acoutred, and places himself on the other side of *Messager*. *La Forge* seeing his companion come (without whom he hoped not to effect any thing) casts his eyes downe towards the river, and wisheth them to take notice what a wondrous strong Boate there was

was that did not sinke with such an extreme weight of iron, his companion who stood on the other side of *Messager*, said unto him, I pray pardon me sir, if I say that you have a bad eye-sight, for you mistake wood for iron, that Boat is laden with Billets, and not with Iron; for it is impossible that it should beare so much Iron and not sinke: Sir (answered *la Forge*) I thanke God, my sight is very good, and I know that there are some Boats laden with Faggots, Billets, or the like; but that Boat which I point at with my finger, being the second Boat from the banke, is laden with Iron, and I dare lay a good wager that that which I say is true.

Messager,

Messager, who saw plainly that the Boat was laden with Wood, was silent, yet smiled to himselfe at so great a mistake, little dreaming whereunto their contestation tended.

At length their contention grew so hot, that they seem'd like to have fallen from words to blowes; in the end it came to a wager of ten Crownes, which was deposited into the hands of *Messager*, untill it were decided by a neerer view; They having so done, call unto them the Boat-man and enquire of him wherewith his Boat was laden? hee answeres, with Wood: but *la Forge*, the better to cover his intent, would not beleeve the Boat-man, but would passe from Boat to Boat,

Boate (the better to colour his intent) by touching that which was the ſubject of his wager; which having done, he confeſſed that he had loſt, and ſeemed wonderfully diſcontented at his ſo great miſtake; the other laughing and winking on *Meſſager*, told *la Forge*, that being he had won his money, he would beſtow a Breakfaſt on him if he pleaſed to accept of it: which motion being embraced by *la Forge*, they both intreat *Meſſager* his companie, in regard that he was preſent at the Wager; which he at firſt refuſed, excuſing himſelfe by reaſon of ſome buſineſſe of importance that he had to diſpatch in the City; but at laſt they perſwade him to go with them.

They

They then enter into one of the moſt noted Ordinaries, beſpeake dinner, and whiles it is preparing, drinke healths at his coſt that won the wager; at laſt, towards the latter end of dinner, betweene the Peare and the Cheeſe, the other Cheater began to challenge *la Forge*, to play with him three caſts at dice for the worth of another breakfaſt, but *la Forge* refuſed it, as having no great skill in gaming, but wiſhed *Meſſager* to have a bout with him, which he likewiſe refuſed. This their plot not ſucceeding according to their expectation, *la Forge* ſignifieth unto *Meſſager*, that hee was to goe within two dayes towards *Lyons*, and was well provided of moneys for his

journey, but that it was in silver, which weighed heavily, and would prove troublesome in his journey; he desired therefore to know whether he could change 10. or 12^{l}. of silver into gold, and offered him 2^{s}. 6^{d}. for the change; *Messager* considering the promised gaine, told him he should have his desire, and presently drew forth a little bag which he had in his pocket, and begun to tell out his money at the end of the table, whilst *la Forge* counts his at the other end; at length the ten pounds being ready told, *Messager* came and told him that the money was ready told, and desired his in exchange; *la Forge* telleth the silver over againe, to see whether there was the full

full ſumme, or any overplus; and watching his opportunity, drawes together likewiſe the others gold, in the meane while that the other Cheater heapes up his money, and drawes three Dice out of his pocket, ſaying, that hee had wonne all; *la Forge* his companion cryes out, by my faith it was a brave caſt; other Cheaters, who by *la Forge* his appointment were in the next Chamber, inquire concerning the caſt, and asked whether *la Forge* had played, who preſently proteſted, and feare-fully ſwore, that hee had gained ten pounds at one caſt; MESSAGER ſtands as mute as a Statue, and being much amazed knew

not what to ſay; but ſeeing them ſeaze on his money, he began to cry out that they were theeves; the Hoſt haſtened to the cry, but *la Forge* and his companions tell him, that it is bootleſſe to cry after hee had loſt his money, for if that he had been afraid of looſing it, he ſhould not have hazarded it; thus would they have forced *Meſsager* to beleeve that he had loſt his money at dice, when it was at Noddie; neither could his words, or other meanes prevaile, for want of competent witneſſe, what they had in poſſeſſion could never be recovered from them. This *la Forge* within one fortnight after this feat, was taken by the Marſhalls men, and for this, and other the like cheats

cheats and robberies, was condemned for ever to the Gallies.

Chap. XIX.

A Relation of the notable Cheats performed by one Mutio.

Mutio was borne in the Countrey of *Chartres*, who before that he attained unto mans eſtate, did vainly forſake both his father, and fathers houſe, and came to *Paris*; where he ſoone met with thoſe who firſt brought him to poverty, and then into ſharking courſes: in which he had not long continued, but that he chanced to take notice of one *Charles D'eſtampes*,

ſtampes, who dwelt in the Univerſity, and had a brother in his countrey and towne of *Chartres*, a married man, and very rich, but without children. He (well knowing this brother of his, and as well the very place where he dwelt, as the reſt of the whole countrey) comes unto this *Charles D'eſtampes*, and tells him that he came from *Chartres* to bring him both good and bad newes, the bad newes conſiſting in the death of his brother *Francis*, for whom hee could not but grieve: the good, in that he had made him his Heire and Overſeer of his whole Will. The Merchant hearing this newes was much afflicted for the death of his brother, whom hee dearly loved,

ved, and but little comforted for the eſtate hee left him, in reſpect that he had a ſufficiencie before: but friend, ſaid hee to *Mutio*, Have you no letter for me? How came you to heare this newes? Sir (ſaid *Mutio*) to tell you the truth, I came late yeſternight into the city, without as much as one croſſe or farthing, being robbed within five miles of the city, and was conſtrained, for my yeſternights expences, to pawne my doublet, wherein was ſowed a Letter from one of your Uncles, which I ſhould have taken forth, but that mine Hoſt finding my Doublet to bee hardly worth my expences (which were ſomewhat the larger

by reaſon of my weary journey) hindred mee that hee might ſo be certaine of his pay; he names his father unto him, and anſwers him very diſcreetly any queſtion concerning his friends in thoſe parts; which *D'eſtampes* conſidering, delivers him five ſhil. to redeem his doublet; being very deſirous to ſee the letter; *Mutio* departs, and about an houre after returnes, bringing with him a letter with this ſuperſcription;

To my Worthy friend Maſter *Charles D'eſtampes*, Merchant, Dwelling in the *Harp-ſtreet* in *Paris*, theſe deliver.

The Contents were theſe;

Good

Good Cousin,

I Much grieve that I am inforced (by this Bearer) to certifie unto you the too certaine newes of your Brother his ſudden and unexpected death; hee was not above three houres ſicke, in which ſhort time he (greatly miſtruſting the approach of death) by will ſetled his eſtate, and hath made you his Heire and Executour, I would therefore adviſe you to haſten into the Countrey, as ſoone as conveniently you can, as well to ſettle your owne affaires, occurring by your late fallen inheritance, as alſo by your preſence to lighten the hearts of thoſe that are much dejected for your Brothers departure: if in the meane time you will write or ſend; you may ſafely doe it by this

Bearer, who is very trusty in what he undertakes.

Your very loving Vnckle

D'estampes.

The Merchant having read this Letter, communicates it to his wife, who being of a covetous disposition, although shee were without children, conceived more joy at the wealth fallen to her and her husband, then sorrow for her brothers death; wherefore she kindly entertained him that brought the newes, which made *Mutio* hope well for a happy successe of his enterprise: for he was resolved, that if he were admitted to lodg in the house he would open the door unto

his

his companions, and ſo make them way to take thence what they thought fit, as he afterwards did: for hee being entertained within the houſe, did in the night open the ſhop window, and caſt forth a good piece of cloth to his companions, and having ſo done, did on the morrow haſten to bee packing: but it happened, that before hee was either gone, or diſcovered, that the Merchants wife grew very ſicke, which made *Mutio* quickly conceive, that this her ſickneſſe would ſlacken her husbands voyage, he therefore returns to *Chartres* to uſe the ſame cheat to the Merchants brother, as he had done to the Merchant himſelfe, whither being come, hee wrote

a Letter directed to Master *D'estampes* to this effect;

Brother,

SInce the time that I had the opportunitie of writing unto you last, Fortune hath taught me to what a depth of sorrow she could depresse a laguishing woman; for death (envying the prosperity which I enjoyed, and the joy that I posseſsed, by so loving a husband, hath now bereaved me of him) by an accurſed Plurisie, which maliciouslie seazed on him on the Wednesday, and killed him on the Thursday; it is a kinde of cruelty that I my selfe am constrained to write the cause of my sorrow; but in respect that he hath made you his Executour, and hath likewise in his will disposed of one part of his estate for your childrens good, I thought

thought it a part of my duty, by giving ſudden notice of it, to expreſse my deare affection to him, and love to you: I ſhall with you deſire to ſee my mother, and to enjoy hers and your company to my comfort. Haſten therefore, for untill your arrivall, I ſhall account my ſelfe

Your forlorne ſiſter,

Eliz. D'eſtampes.

Mutio having penned this Letter, goes with it unto the brother of Maſter *D'eſtampes*, and ſignifying that he was his brothers ſervant, preſented him the Letter; the contents whereof, being by him read, wonderfully grieved him, for that he dearly loved this his brother, and for his

ſake

ſake kindly entertained this his pretended ſervant: Hee and his mother prepare themſelves mourning apparrell, and diſpoſe and order their affaires at home, againſt their intended journey to *Paris*, whither hee and his mother are now reſolved to goe: in the meane time *Mutio* is not idle, but watching his opportunity, (whiles moſt of the houſe were at Church, and the reſt not ſuſpecting him) pilfereth two or three rich Diamonds out of a ſmall Casket, which he (being his Crafts-maſter) ſo neately cloſed againe, that it could not be ſuddenly diſcovered.

To conclude, hee framed ſuch a ſimple and harmeleſſe countenance, and thereto uſed

uſed ſo naturall a behaviour in his demeanour, towards this younger brother, that both he and his mother take their journeys towards *Paris*; the one to proove the Will, the other to comfort her diſconſolate daughter: ſo that now there are two ſeverall men parted from ſeverall places, and going to different places about one and the ſame cauſe, both of them enjoying their perfect health, both each by other thought to bee dead, and both of them building Caſtles in the aire, with the conceited wealth left by the one unto the other: neither of them as yet perceiving the cunning theft of *Autio*.

It

It was not long after the departure of *Mutio* out of *Paris*, before the wife of *Charles D'eſtampes*, began to recover; her husband therefore begins his intended journey toward *Chartres*, to ſettle his brothers affaires, whiles he likewiſe was onward toward *Paris*: Now it happened, that he (being either better horſed, or ſetting forth ſooner then his brother) came with his mother unto an Inne being in the mid-way betweene both places; and becauſe they were very weary, they there tooke up their lodging; and having ſupped, went into two ſeverall beds in the ſame chamber; *Charles* on the other ſide comming from *Paris* ſomewhat late into the ſame

ſame village, and inquiring for the beſt Inne, was directed to the very ſame place; where hee having ſupped, was brought into a Chamber, thorow which he (that had occaſion to go to or fro thorow his brothers Chamber) muſt of neceſſity paſſe.

It happened, that this man about midnight, heard his brother ſpeake unto his mother (for there was but a thin wainſcot partition betweene them) ſo that it was eaſie for him to heare what they ſaid; the voice hee heard, made him apprehend that it was ſurely his brothers ſpirit; but afterward conſidering that it might be ſome other that had the like voice, hee blowes out the candle, and reſolves to ſettle himſelfe to ſleep. About

About an houre after, the younger brother who lay in the other Chamber, being troubled with the Squertego, called up the Chamberlaine to bring him a Candle, which being come, hee takes his Cloke and passeth close by the bed where his brother lay, talking by the way unto the Chamberlaine; his brother awakes at the noise, and began to be in a terrible fear, for now he thought he heard him speake more distinctly, and saw a glimpse of his visage. The other holds on his way, but in his returne towards his Chamber, hee became so curious, as with his Candle to take a more full view of him that lay so neere him, who opening his eyes knew his countenance, and

and ſhrinkes under the cloths that he might no more bee troubled with his ſight, for his whole body trembled by reaſon of his extream feare.

Young *D'eſtampes* being amazed to ſee his brother there whom hee certainely held for dead, let fall the Candle and ran away as faſt as his legs could carry him; he hath the ſame conceit that his brother hath, and thinkes that he ſaw, to bee his Spirit, ſo that both of them were wonderfully troubled at their ſtrange viſions: the young man tells his mother what he had ſeen; ſhe being as other women, of a weak ſpirit, confirmed his opinion by telling him, that he had left ſome vow unperformed, wch was the cauſe that his Spirit walked,

walked; ſo that the extremity of feare preſenting divers objects to their thoughts, they continued all night wakening in great perplexity; at length, day appearing, the elder brother ariſeth firſt, and dreſſeth himſelfe in his mourning apparell, the younger likewiſe forſakes his bed at the ſame time, being both dreſſed, this man opens the door thinking to go downe, and there to inquire of the Hoſt who it was that lay in the adjoyning Chamber, but ſeeing his brother in his mourning clothes, hee amazedly retired; and the other, being no leſſe afraid, goes downe, and having inquired who they were that lay in the inner Chamber, he was anſwered, that they were

were of *Chartres*, & that they were one man and one woman; then began he to take courage, thinking it might be that the newes of his brothers death was falſe; but then he wondred why (if it were his brother) he ſhould mourne: To conclude, the Hoſt interpoſing betweene both parties, the two brothers came and imbraced each other, greatly wondering at ſo ſtrange an accident; Each of them relate unto the other the roguerie of *Mutio*, in delivering fained letters: ſo having ſpent together ſome time in mirth, each returned to his owne home; where the one found that *Mutio* his fingers had bin buſie among his jewels, and the other among his beſt ſtuffes.

This

This fellow ſhortly after was taken in the company of ſome Cutpurſes, and for his villanies being found guilty; firſt burned with the Kings marke, and then condemned to the Gallies at *Marſeilles*.

CHAP. XIX.

A Facetious Relation, how one Maillard *cheated a Goldſmith of a rich piece of Plate, &c.*

NEceſſity is the mother of inventions, (ſaid a Philoſopher) not without good reaſon, for when we are once falne into this labyrinth, our owne miſhaps doe quicken our wits, and furniſh us

us with ſome pollicy where-by to ſave our ſelves (if it be poſſible) from the loweſt de-gree of miſery. An example whereof, we will ſhew in the notable exploits of *Maillard*, whoſe ill education increaſed his natural propẽſion to wic-kedneſſe, and whoſe preſent wants enforced him to work his wits for a Remedie. The firſt action he did after his arrival at *Paris*, was to enroll himſelfe among the crew of cutpurſes, and (with them to frequent the new Bridg their *Rendevous*) he chiefly aſſocia-ted himſelfe with two of the moſt ſubtill of the troupe; from thence hee came to the *Cordeliers*, where hee in-ſinuated himſelfe into the acquaintance of one of the Friers of the houſe that he

hee might cauſe him to act a part in a Comedie.

Good Father (ſaid he) I have a brother that within theſe few dayes hath conceived ſuch griefe and melancholly for the death of his wife (whom he loved as his owne ſoule) that it hath almoſt diſtracted him; ſometime hee telleth us that hee ſeeth her Ghoſt, and that it talketh unto him; wherefore I am come purpoſely to intreat you to uſe your indeavour to draw him back into the good way, and to ſettle his diſtracted ſenſes; otherwiſe I feare that the Devill (who ſtill preſents unto him a thouſand fancies and *Chimera's*) will ſet him wholly, and irrecoverably beſide himſelfe: to morrow I will bring

bring him unto you, that you may give him admonitions, and withdraw thoſe thicke clouds of ſorrow which darken his underſtanding: Amidſt his ravings, and idle talke, hee cryes out, that hee is robbed, and demands his Money, Plate, and other things to bee reſtored unto him; wee have given him ſome Phyſick to purge theſe melancholliе humours from him, but to ſmall purpoſe; however, I hope that your advice, and holy admonitions, will more effectually worke upon his underſtanding: You may bring him hither (ſaid the Frier) I will uſe my beſt endeavours to ſettle his minde; this proceeds out of a dryneſſe of the braine, cauſed by his ve-

hement and extreame griefe: Upon theſe words *Maillard* returnes, being very glad that hee had laid his nets ſo handſomely to catch the firſt Partridge: hee therefore returns unto his Comerades, and certifies them of his plot and purpoſe: the next morning very early, he takes one of his companions with him, being clothed in the habit of a Prieſt, goes unto the Exchange bridge, and there cheapeneth a ſilver Chalice which was worth eight pounds: The Goldſmith doubted nothing of the deceit, ſuppoſing that his companion being like a Prieſt ſhould have payed him for it; they having agreed upon the price, *Maillard* deſires him to ſend it by

by his man along with them to the Covent of *Cordeliers*, and that there he ſhould receive his money; they thence went ſtrait to the *Cordeliers*, about nine of the clocke in the morning, and by the way entertained the Goldſmiths man with ſo good diſcourſe, that hee never dreamed ought of the enſuing deceit: Being come to the gate, *Maillard* ſeeming to be well acquainted with the houſe, rang the Bell, and demanded to ſpeake with ſuch a Father; the Porter anſwered that hee was at Church with a Gentleman: Sir, then ſaid he to the Goldſmith, you may leave the Plate with the Porter, whilſt we goe heare Maſſe, and as ſoone as it is done, you ſhall

receive your money; to the which he being willing, delivered it to *Maillards* companion, who gave it to the Porter; ſo they went into the Veſtry, where the Frier was putting on his Cope to ſay Maſſe, *Maillard* taking his opportunity, ſteps unto him, and tells him that that was his brother of whom hee had ſpoken the day before.

The Frier dreaming nothing of the deceit, turnes to the Goldſmith, my friend, ſaith hee, have a little patience till Maſſe be ended, and I will ſatisfie you.

The Goldſmith imagining that he ſhould certainly receive money after Maſſe, was content to ſtay and take his place in the Chancell;

cell; whither *Maillard* and his Comerade bare him company till the time of offering: But not being willing to let goe the preſent occaſion, hee whiſpered the Goldſmith in the eare, that they would goe before to the next Taverne (which they named) to drinke a quart of wine, and there they would expect his company: content (quoth the Goldſmith) and ſo they parted. The Goldſmith yet doubted not of any deceit, or fraud, in their diſcourſe, or carriage, but thought it ſufficient that hee had the Friers words for his ſatisfaction, and that hee had ſeene the Plate delivered into the hands of the Porter of the Covent.

Maillard (meane while) comes with his Comerade unto the Porter, and askes for the Chalice which hee had left with him, fayning that he would goe ſay Maſſe in a Chappel neer adjoyning, at the requeſt of ſome devout ones, as the manner is in *Paris*: The Porter beleeving that according to the uſuall cuſtome hee would goe ſay Maſſe, delivered him the Chalice, who immediately departed, and being out at the gate, you may conceive, they loſt little time in going, for they were not troubled with the Gout.

The Frier (the mean while) who knew nothing of the deceit, having ſaid Maſſe, came into the Veſtrie, whither the Goldſmith followed

ed him pricking his ears like an Hare, and preparing his Bag and Gold-weights to receive money for his Chalice, to whom the good Frier (drawing him aſide) began this diſcourſe.

My friend (ſaith he) is it long ſince your wife died, and that you have been troubled with this malady? for I muſt know the cauſe and beginning thereof, that I may the better apply a Remedy.

What wife (ſaid the Goldſmith) I am not married, this is not the matter that brought me hither: I know well (ſaid the Frier) that you are not married, for then you would ſoone have forgot your former wife, and it is not likely, being you bare her ſo great affection,

that you would ſo ſoon ſeeke a new one, but it is good to know the time ſince ſhe died, that I may the better eaſe you of your griefe.

But Sir (ſaid the Goldſmith) I ſuppoſe you take me for ſome other, I have no Wife, neither yet intend to have one; I come onely for to receive money that is due unto me: My friend, ſaid the Frier, I knew very well you would demand money, nevertheleſſe I doubt not but to reſtore you to your perfect minde: Have you beene at Confeſſion ſince you perceived your ſelfe troubled with this diſeaſe? Have you purged your conſcience from the evill deeds you have done, by Confeſſion and Repentance? for ſometimes

God doth afflict us for our ſinnes and offences; excuſe me if I ſearch ſo narrowly into your affairs, it is not but for your good. Sir, replyed the Goldſmith, excuſe me if I muſt needs ſay one of us wants his ſences, and is not in his right minde; I have nothing to do with your Tale of a Cock and a Bull, I demand eight pounds which you are to pay me, or deliver my ware again, notwithſtanding all theſe crafty ſhifts and mockeries.

Have patience my friend (ſaid the Frier) I will do my beſt to give you content, but what I ſay unto yõu is for your good, you ought not to be ſo Cholerick; and to tell you my minde in few words, I think it moſt neceſſary that

you firſt ſeeke remedy for your Soul, and after, that you take Phyſicke to cure your Body; for all theſe violent paſſions proceed from an indiſpoſition and drynes of the Braine. You pay me fairely ſaid the Goldſmith, Is this the money that you mean to give me? Good Sir, either pay me my 8^l^ which we agreed for, or elſe reſtore unto me my Chalice; It is not reaſon that you ſhould detain my maſters goods, and fobb me off with an idle diſcourſe.

The Frier all this while not diſcerning any ſigne or token of diſtraction in him, began to ſuſpect ſome deceit; and to this, the abſence of *Maillard* added more cauſe of ſuſpition: Of what Chalice ſpeake you, ſaid he, have you given me

me a Chalice: I demand money (answered the Goldsmith) for the Chalice, for which you sent two Gentlemen to whom you spake before Masse; the price agreed upon was 8', wee have left it with the Porter to deliver to you; if you desire a further proofe you may speake with the Porter himselfe, or send for those that came with me, they are not farre off, for they stay for me at the next Taverne, where I promised to come unto them.

The Frier hearing this discourse, began to change his tune. It is true (said hee) that he which came halfe an houre agoe unto me, came also unto me yesterday, and certified me that hee had a brother much troubled in mind,

minde, becauſe of the loſſe of his Wife, whom hee ſo dearely loved, that he began (through griefe and melancholly) to bee beſides himſelfe, often imagining that he ſaw her and talked to her Ghoſt; and that I would do a worke of Charity to uſe my endeavour to ſettle him again in his right minde: Wherefore I crave pardon for this my frivilous diſcourſe, for I ſuppoſed you to bee the man of whom hee ſpake; but as for the Chalice of which you ſpeak, I know nothing of it, perhaps hee took me for the Guardian of *Compeigne* who much reſembles me; you may do well to goe to him, I will goe along with you to him: Whither being come, the Guardian anſwered

ſwered that hee knew nothing of the buſineſſe, and that for his part he had given no order to any to buy a Chalice.

The Goldſmith at this began to doubt of the deceit, and goes unto the Porter to demand his Chalice; who anſwers him, that it was true they delivered one unto him while they went to Maſſe, but the Prieſt who delivered it unto him, had taken it to go ſay Maſſe, and that queſtionleſſe he ſhould finde him in ſome Chappell neere thereabouts: Whereupon, all in a rage, hee began to threaten the Porter to ſue him: but hee told him, hee could not any way hurt him, for that he had delivered it to him that gave it into his hand,

hand: After many angry words had paſt betweene them, the Goldſmith was conſtrained to goe ſearch about in the Taverne and Chappels neere adjoyning, to finde out either the Prieſt or his Companion; but hee might as well ſearch for a needle in a bottle of Hay, for at laſt he returns home without either Chalice or money.

Hereby may yong Novices take warning to beware how they truſt to outward ſhews, leſt they dearely pay for it in the end.

Thus *Maillard* came cleere off with his Cup worth eight pounds, of whom you ſhall yet heare related further examples of deceit; that being forewarned, you may bee armed againſt the like dangers

to

to avoyd them: whereof one is as followeth:

Maillard having ſhared his former prey, and ſoone ſpent his part, (according to the vulgar proverb, *Lightly come, lightly goe,*) was againe driven to his ſhifts, but reſolved to play at ſmall game rather then ſit out. And having learned that a Citizen of Saint *Anthonies* ſtreet had a Farme at a place called *Turon*, not very farre from *Paris*: he goes thither, and learnes divers particularities; as the name of the Farmer and his ſervants, &c. Now he returns to *Paris*, and gives notice to his Companions, of his intended plot: and having choſen his time, apparells himſelfe in the habit of an husbandman, and

taking

taking a Goad in his hand, as if hee were ſome brave Carter in a leatherne jacket, comes unto the Citizen, and after a clowniſh manner, ſalutes him with theſe words; God give you good morrow, ſir, I thinke your Worſhip does not know me, it is but eight dayes ſince I came to live with your Farmer, *Martin Clare*, at *Turon*: but alas, ſir; a ſhrewd misfortune hath befallen us: The Citizen and his wife being much troubled with theſe words, began to feare that the houſe was burnt, or the Farmer dead, or ſome bad accident had happened; and haſtily demands what was the matter; Sir, anſwered *Maillard*, a ſad miſchance happened unto us; as your Farmer and

my

my ſelf were coming to *Paris* with a Cart laden with Corn to ſell, as ill hap would, becauſe of the bad way, my Maſter got up upon the Cart, but as we came to the end of the Towne, beyond Saint *Martins* in the ſuburbs, one of the wheeles brake, ſo that my Maſter falling, hath broke his leg quite aſunder; this accident hath much troubled me; but making a vertue of neceſſity, I was forced to take one of my horſes, & to carry him to the Bone-ſetters neere S^t. *Martins* Croſſe, the whileſt I got his ſonne to looke to the Cart; and having given order to have two new wheeles made, meane while my maſter ſent me hither to intreat your Worſhip that you

you would bee pleaſed to come unto him, for he is in great danger.

The Citizen hearing this ſad news roſe up, ſhewing by his lookes that he was much grieved for this ſorrowfull miſchance; his wife alſo ſeemed much troubled, and would have beene contented to have gone with her husband to ſee him; but he was unwilling, and goes himſelfe along with this ſuppoſed Carter, talking with him (as hee went) about his lands at the Farme, wherein *Maillard* ſo ſatisfied him, that hee thought him to bee an honeſt and underſtanding fellow.

But as they came neere to S^t^. *Martins*, and were turning into S^t^. *Honore* ſtreet, *Maillard* began

began to give him juſt inſtructions where to finde his Maſter, and where the Bone-ſetter dwelt, telling him that hee muſt returne to his horſes, and haſte to have the Wheeles fitted to his Cart; ſaying, that hee wanted money, as ill hap was, to pay the Wheel-wright, wherfore deſired him, that if he had two or three and twenty ſhillings about him, to let him have it, otherwiſe hee ſhould come too late to the market; ſaying withall, that he would not make two miſhaps of one, and that his Maſter would pay him againe. The Citizen without any difficulty delivers him 20ˢ. ſaying that that was all hee had about him, and goes on his way with

with all ſpeed ſuppoſing to finde his Farmer in great danger of death, and little miſdoubting of the deceit, for *Maillard* had named unto him his grounds, how and where they were ſeated, and what ſtore of Corne they were like to yeeld that yeer, and many other particulars, which he had learned at the Farmers owne houſe.

Maillard returnes, and not contented with the twenty ſhillings hee had cheated of the Citizen, reſolves to doe the like to his wife: he therfore makes all poſſible haſte to the Citizens houſe, where hee found the wife dreſſing her ſelfe, and ſaith unto her, Miſtris, your husbands worſhip hath ſent me hither, (he is now with the Bone-ſetter,

who

who gives us good hope and assurance of the recovery of my Master) hee desires your worship to send him twenty shillings to give the Chyrurgion in hand towards the Cure, my Master will pay you assoone as his Corne is sold.

The good woman being glad to hear that the Farmer was in good hope of recovery, makes no scruple, but delivers him twenty shillings; so he departs the house, and goes to his companions, to whom he related his adventures; but hee did not long glory in his wickednesse, for the Goldsmith, from whom he had cheated the Chalice, chanced to espie him in Saint *Germains* Faire, lying in wait to entrap others, and by him

was

was himſelf entrapped; and for that, and other the like cheats and robberies, hee was broken upon the wheele as hee moſt juſtly deſerved; Divine Juſtice ſeldome ſuffering any long to eſcape, who ſo unjuſtly lay hands on the goods of others, and lead their lives, as it were, in deffiance of his Commandments, who hath ſaid, Thou ſhalt not ſteale, but ſhalt love thy neighbour as ſelfe, and doe unto others, as thou wouldeſt bee done unto.

CHAP.

Chap. XXI.

The multiplicity of Theeves.

THe antiquity of theeves I have already ſpoken of, I will now ſpeake of the moderne, and thoſe daily converſant among us.

The Taylor ſteales, demanding a third part of cloth more then needes to make a ſuit; and when hee that cauſeth it to be made, ſuſpecting his honeſtie, would bee preſent at the cutting of it out, he troubles him, and ſo dazles his ſight, with the often turning and winding the breadth and length of the piece, that he makes his ſenſes become dull, with his long attention;

in

in the meane time, the Taylor taking his opportunity, casts the cloth into a false pleat under the sheares, and so cuts it out as single, when the piece is double; whereby hee makes a great gaine; besides what he extracts out of silver or gold Lace, Buttons, Silke and the like; of which, a good part hee condemnes to his Hell, from whence there is no redemption.

The Weaver steales, in demanding more Warp then the cloth requires, weaving fifty yards in stead of fourty five, and with the abundance of divers broken threds, he makes one continued, which is worth unto him the eighth part of what he robs.

The

The Shoemaker reſtores with his teeth that which he ſtole with his cutting knife, biting, and ſtretching the Spaniſh Leather, to the end that out of what is given him to make one paire of ſhoes, hee might gaine at leaſt an upper leather unto himſelfe, and if the leather be his owne, he puts therein a ſcurvie ſole, and ſowes it with rotten threed, to the end that it may weare out the ſooner, and hee gaine the more from his either ſimple or prodigall Cuſtomer.

The Phyſician, and Chirurgion ſteale, the one preſcribing, and the other applying medicines which may increaſe the diſeaſe, to the end, that prolonging the time

of Cure they may increaſe their fees.

The Apothecary robs with a *Qui* for a *Quo*, ſelling one Drug for another, and taking that which is beſt cheape, without conſidering what humor it ſhould purge, or what vertue the drug hath which he applieth: by which he robs the Phyſitian of his reputation, and the patient of his life: and if by chance there is asked of him an oyle which he hath not, hee will not faile to give ſome other inſtead of it, that hee may not looſe the credit of his ſhop.

The Merchant robs, in taking extraordinary uſe, and exceeding the juſt price of his Commodity; and ſometimes by writing downe in his

his booke a debt, which hath beene already paid.

The Notarie and Clerke robs with an (&c.) a whole inheritance, for a little money; will by falſe writing give away a mans life by a voluntary miſtake, writing guilty for not guilty.

The Lawyer and Atturney robs, ſelling an hundred lies to their poore Clients, making them beleeve that their Cauſe is good, although they apparently ſee he hath no right to that he claimes: And it often comes to paſſe, that one Atturney agreeth with another, to ſell the right of the parties, and divide the gain between themſelves.

The Judge robs men of juſtice, becomming paſſio-

nate on the behalfe of that man, who by ſome preſent, hath beforehand corrupted him; and violently wreſting the text of *Bartol.* and *Baldus* for his owne gaine.

The Grocer, and ſuch as ſell by weight, rob; by nimbly touching with the little finger, the tongue of the beame, whereby he turnes the ſcale which way he pleaſeth, and ſo cheats the buyer of his weight.

The Booke-ſeller robs, by ſelling an imperfect Booke, for one perfect; by recommending a Booke to his Cuſtomer for good, which hee knowes to be dull, and lies heavie on his hand, and alſo by ſelling a Booke of an old Edition in the ſtead of a new.

The

The Vintner robs after divers ſorts, mingling and confounding one wine with another, beſides the water which hee puts in it, and when the wine, being often baptized, hath loſt his ſtrength, hee hangs in the veſſell a little bag full of Cloves, Pepper, Juniper, and other Drugs; with which hee makes it yet ſeeme good and right.

The Butcher robbes, blowing the pieces of fleſh with a quill to make them ſeeme a great deale fairer, and that they may yeeld more then they are worth.

The Perfumer robs, by ſophiſticating the perfumes, and by multiplying the muske with the burnt liver

of a Cow, the Amber with Sope and Sand, and Civet with Butter.

The Scholer robs, ſtealing from Saint *Auguſtine*, and *Aquinas*, *&c.* the beſt of their workes, and utters their doctrine as his owne, ſeeming an Inventour of that hee is not.

Thus you ſee all rob, and every Tradeſman hath his way and particular craft, for the deceitfull working of his owne ends.

Chap. XXII.

A Facetious Relation of a Pariſian *theefe condemned to the Gallies at* Marſeilles.

SIr, you may perhaps thinke that wee live diſorderly, without either Lawes or Diſcipline, but you are therein miſtaken; for wee have firſt our Captaine or Superiour, who ordaineth and diſpoſeth what Thefts ſhall bee committed, by whom and how: under his Command are all ſorts of Theeves, Highway Theeves, Tirelaines, Skipjackes, Picklockes, Church-robbers, Cutpurſes, Nightwalkers, Boudgets, &c.

High-way Theeves rob on great Rodes, and Deſerts, with great cruelty and tyranny; for they ſeldome commit a Robbery without a murder, fearing to be diſcovered to the Juſtice: The meanes and ſlights they uſe in their Exploits, are divers; for ſometimes, as in a Citie, they dog a man for a fortnight together, untill hee departs out of Towne, and the better to intrap him, one of the companie goes diſguiſed in the habit of a Merchant to lodge in the ſame Inne, with cloake-bag or packe ſtuffed with old cloth, giving out, that hee is a ſtrange Merchant, and that hee is fearefull to goe on his intended journey alone; with

with this his diſſembling hee diſcourſeth with the poor Merchant or Paſſenger, and ſo drawing from him cunningly what hee deſires to know; as whence he is, whither hee goes, what ſort of merchandiſe he carries, or what other buſineſſe brought him thither, and at what time hee departs; thus hee gathereth by his diſcourſe, of the richneſſe of his Bootie: whereof hee gives notice to his Conſorts, who attend him in ſome place fitting their purpoſe; others hide themſelves behinde ſome well growne buſhes, and when they perceive afarre off a Paſſenger comming, then they caſt into the way a Purſe, or a Budget, or ſome

ſuch thing, to the end that when he alights and ſtaies to take it up, they may lay hands on him and all hee hath: Others keeping themſelves a little from the high-way, faine a lamentable voyce, by which they urge the Paſſenger to ſtay and ſee what the matter is; and whiles the Plaintiffe diſſemblingly relates unto him his griefe, the Ambuſh breakes foorth and ſtrips him to his ſhirt.

The Tirelaines take their names from the Theft they commit, which is to ſteale Cloakes in the night; and theſe uſe no other ſubtilty then meere occaſion. They goe alwayes three and three, or foure and foure together, between nine and ten in the night; and if they finde occaſion

caſion in the mid-day they will not loſe it: They goe forth to ſteale Clokes, moſt commonly, in the darkeſt nights and moſt rainie; and to thoſe by places which are not much frequented, that the cryes of thoſe they rob may not cauſe their apprehenſion: They are ſomtimes accuſtomed to bee clothed like Lackeys, and to enter where there is any Maske or great Feaſt, faining that they ſeeke for their Maſters: and with this liberty they finde an heape of Cloakes (which the Gentlemen, or others leave in the Hall, aſſuring themſelves that no body would there offer to touch them) and ſo in the ſight of many they boldly take them away.

The

The Skipjacks take their names from Shipboyes, who mount nimbly, by Cords, to the top of the higheſt Maſt: Thoſe who beare this name, rob by night, mounting lightly by a Ladder of Cords, at the end whereof are faſtened two little nooſes, or hookes of Iron, to the end that caſting it to the window it may take hold and faſten, and that they may eaſily get in and out of the houſe, and carry away what ever comes to their hands, and having performed their exploit, they readily faſten a ſmall Corde to the very point of the two little hookes, which being drawne, after their deſcent, raiſeth up the hookes, ſo that the Ladder falleth without any trace or marke of theft.

Pick-

Picklockes, are thoſe that carry ſundry kinds of Inſtruments with which they open all ſorts of doores.

Church-robbers, are thoſe who lie lurking in ſome Pue when Evening Prayers are ended, and the night following, having furniſhed themſelves with what purchaſe they can get, at laſt pick open the Church-doore, or breake through one of the windows and ſo depart.

Cutpurſes are the commoneſt Theevs of our Common wealth, whoſe chiefeſt Art conſiſts either in neatly cutting, or nimbly, yet warily taking a Purſe out of ones Pocket, without either being perceived or ſuſpected: theſe (moſt commonly) frequent Churches, Sermons, Faires, &

other

other publique Assemblies, that in the middest of the throng they may the safer act their feats of activitie; they are accustomed to goe well apparelled, to the end, that if they approach any Gentleman of quality, they may have the lesse cause to suspect them: they for the most part seeke out strangers, such as are the High and Low Dutch, who are accustomed to stand gaping and gazing with open mouth on some rarities, being transported with such wonder and amazement, that in their study and trance, their shirt might almost bee taken away from them: They alwayes goe two to take a Purse, and as soone as hee that is appointed for the feat,

feat, hath performed it, hee gives what he hath taken to his companion, who ſtands by him; ſo that if he bee taken, hee may more boldly deny the act, and juſtifie his innocencie before the world.

I will tell you the induſtry which I once uſed; the laſt yeere there came unto the City of *Lyons*, a Merchant of *Italy*, rich, courteous, and of good carriage, who being noted by our ſpies, I was commanded to undertake him. I aroſe early that morning, that I might not looſe any occaſion; and having followed him thorow divers ſtreets and Churches, (for hee was very zealous) wee came unto an aſſembly of Merchants, which are accuſtomed

ſtomed to meet about eleven of the Clock; I ſeeing him there alone approached him, and began to enter into a diſcourſe concerning a Traffique which might prove very commodious and profitable to him; to which my diſcourſe he attentively liſtened, and after much diſcourſe, the company greatly encreaſing, while my Companion ſeconded my diſcourſe, and he attentively hearkened unto him, not obſerving me, I ſoftly put my fingers into his pocket to ſearch, or try, its depth and wideneſſe, and quickly found that it was capable of my whole hand, ſo that at the firſt adventure I got his Purſe, and at the ſecond, a Silver Watch faſtened to

a ſmall Chaine of Gold; with which I might have beene well contented, if Theevery had any limits, but bēing reſolved to adventure the third time, to try whether I could draw from thence a dainty fine wrought Holland Handkercher (which I had ſeene him uſe but a little before) but I could not bee ſo dexterous in this third feate, nor my Companion ſo ſweetly eloquent in his diſcourſe, but he felt me, and haſtening with his hand to his pocket could not but meet with mine; whereat being much troubled, and finding his Purſe and his Watch gone, he ſeized on my Collar, and ſaid I was a Theefe: I now foreſeeing the danger which might happen to me

by my rashnesse, gave my Purse and Watch to my Comerade under my cloake as soone as I had stole them. Wherefore being assured that he could not finde about me that wherewith he charged mee, I laughed at what he said, and gave him the lie a thousand times: The Merchant notwithstanding, held mee fast, demanding his Purse with a loud voyce, in so much that by reason of the noise, much people were gathered about the place; but my Comerade tendring my honour and safety, and fearing the danger I was in, hastened to a Cryer, which hee found not farre off, and procured him to cry, that if any one had lost a Purse and Watch, they should come

to

to ſuch an Inne, and there they ſhould heare of them; and upon a reaſonable recompence for the finding, and the markes told, hee would deliver them; ſcarce had this good *Italian* heard the cry, but he leaves me, intreating me, with great humility, to pardon his raſh cenſuring of mee, which I did at the intreaty of thoſe that were by, and ſo left them: He as ſwift as a Roebucke haſtens to the Cryer, tells him the making of his Purſe and Watch, and maketh it appeare that hee loſt them, but hee who had cauſed him to make the Cry, was not to bee found: And thus I narrowly eſcaped the danger that I ran into.

The

The Night-walkers, are thoſe who take their walke about the Towne towards the beginning of evening, and finding ſome doore open, they ſoftly enter, hiding themſelves in ſome obſcure place, till midnight, when they caſt out at the windowes whatſoever they finde within the houſe. I once adventured to doe the like; but to my coſt. It happened that on an Holy-day, after Evening Prayer, going to ſeeke my fortune, it was my ill lucke to ſpie a doore halfe open, thorow the which putting my head, I perceived that all my body might enter; which having done, I went along a Ladder unto a great Chamber, very well

well furniſhed, and being confident that I might lie ſafe under a bed which was therein, untill the houſhold was all retired to their reſts, I tooke that courſe: after I had layen ſome foure houres on the ground, I ſuddenly heard a noiſe of people comming up towards the Chamber, and preſently by the light of a Candle, which they brought with them, I eſpied the feet of two or three ſervants, who covered a table with a great deale of care, and (as I found afterward to my coſt) it was there the Maſter of the houſe intended to ſup: The Table being furniſhed with divers ſorts of meates, foure or five perſons ſate them downe thereto,

thereto, (beſides Children that were in the houſe mingling their ſupper with divers Diſcourſes: I was at that time ſo affrighted, that I verily thinke (if the noiſe of them and their Childrens voyces had not hindered it) they might eaſily have heard the ſhaking of my thighes one againſt another: by ill luck there was a little Dog in the houſe, which went up and downe gnawing thoſe bones which were caſt under the Table; and one of the Children caſting downe a Bone, a Cat which watched at the end of the Table (being more diligent then the Dog) took it and ran with it from the Dog under the Bed; the Dog runs after the Cat, ſnarling at her, and endeavours

vours to take away the bone: But the Cat, by the helpe of her clawes, ſo well defended her ſelfe, that having given the Dog two or three ſcratches, ſo angred him that they made a fearefull noiſe, which made one of the Lackeys take up a Fire-ſhovell out of the Chimney, and caſt it ſo fiercely under the Bed, that if it had hit my noſe with the edge, (as it did my Breech with the handle) it had taken it away cleane: but with much adoe hee made the Cat go from under the Bed, yet did the Dog remaine behind, grumbling and barking, with ſuch eagerneſſe, that neither cheering him, nor threatning could appeaſe him; at which they who ſerved at the Table, being offended, began to beate

beat him, and caſt him almoſt into the fire, leaving me as if I were breathing my laſt: The confuſion that the Dog wrought being ended, there was another that began to increaſe in my guts, with ſuch violence (by reaſon of the apprehenſion aud feare that I was in) that being conſtrained to ſneeze thrice, I could not but offend my Breeches twice. Theſe two noiſes meeting, and by their conjunction augmenting, cauſed thoſe at the Table to ariſe and ſee what this was; ſo that I was taken with the preſent offence, and was ſubject to the rigour of their vengeance; no Plea that I could make being ſufficient to defend mee: They ſtript me ſtarke naked, and binding my

my hands and my feet, began to ſcorch mee with their Lights, not without a great deale of laughter and ſcorne; and having ſatisfied their fury, they delivered mee into the hands of the Juſtice, from whom I parted ſigned and ſealed.

The Budgets, are Theeves which runne themſelves into divers inconveniencies and dangers, for they ſometimes cauſe themſelves to bee incloſed in ſome Bale, Hamper, or Trunke, as if they were ſome merchandiſe, and to bee brought and left in ſome rich mans houſe, to be convayed to ſome countrey Chapman to whom they fain they would ſend it; to the end that in the night, every one being aſleepe, hee may

with his knife or key make way out, and ſo rob the houſe; which tricke I once acted to my great diſgrace; for a friend of mine faining that hee had foure Bales which hee deſired to have conveyed into the countrey, incloſed mee within one of them; and having ſo done, convayed them to a Goldſmiths ſhop to be there kept (as for a friend of the Goldſmiths whom hee had named to him) untill the Carrier arrived: The Goldſmith little miſtruſting any roguery to be intentended, willingly received them into his houſe, in regard that the time was not long that they were to trouble the houſe; but it unfortunately happened that in the night, when I thought

to

to have performed my intended exploit, three or foure Apprentices who had made a match to ſpend an houre or two in mirth, entering the ſhop, ſetled themſelves ſome on one Bale and ſome on another; and that wherein I was incloſed, was not ſo free, but that I ſoone felt a burden, yet not ſo great, but that I could indifferently well beare it; but having drunke themſelves merry, they at the laſt betooke them to their reſt, which was no reſt to me, for whereas they were ſevered before, they now made choice of that Bale wherein I was incloſed, for their bed, & theron ſlept ſo profoundly, that a man might have drawne them a

mile from their Couch and not have wakened them: At length (being almoſt ſtifled with exceſſive waight) I moved a little, and perceiving the immobility of that which was on me, I verely thought that they had put on me another Bale: with which conceit, and the extreame torment that I ſuffered, I drew my knife, and cut a hole through that wherein I was incloſed, and made a large gaſh in the Buttocks of him who lay upon me; whereupon he aroſe like Lightning, and cry'd out unto the neighbours for help, thinking that one of his companions wold have killed him: the cry was ſo great, that it not onely raiſed divers of the neighbours, but alſo haſtened the Officer,

who

who entring, found the poor fellow that was hurt, and the reſt in great perplexity; he examines the man that was hurt, without taking notice of the Bale, thinking it needleſſe to enquire in what part he had received his wound, but to know the perſon that gave it. The Goldſmith, conſidering the circumſtances, began to thinke that the abundance of blood which he had loſt had ſurely ſpoil'd the Stuffes; and approaching the Bale, he found it open; and putting his finger therein, to feele in what caſe the Bale was, he lighted on my Beard; I lay ſtill, in hope that hee would not gueſſe what it was: but he taking a Candle in his hand, drew neere againe, and holding

downe the candle more narrowly to ſearch what was in it, the ſcalding liquor of the candle fell upon my face, which forced me to ſtirre a little; whereupon he ſuddenly cried out, theeves, theeves, ſo I was inſtantly apprehended, and at length, after a ſound whipping, condemned to ſerve in the Gallies for ten yeeres, and thus was I rewarded according to my miſdeeds.

CHAP. XXIII.

The gratefull theefe.

AS I ſtudied the Laws in the Univerſity of *Orleance*, I learned of a Scholer of *Touraine* this enſuing Hiſtory, he having formerly heard

it

it from the mouth of him to whom the chance happened.

A young man of *Poictou*, named *Cyran*, ſonne of a Merchant was ſent to *Tours* by his father to diſpatch ſome buſineſſe which appertained to traffique. This young man was naturally pitifull, and from his youth inclined to give almes without diſtinction of perſons. The honour of the King of glory which may bee much advanced by workes, ought to bee endeavoured with judgement: for at length diſcretion is the touchſtone of humane actions, and it is not enough to doe good, a man muſt doe it, and it muſt be done to purpoſe. Almes is one of the moſt excellent and

moſt acceptable actions wch thoſe to whom God hath given meanes can doe, (for as the Divine Pſalmiſt hath ſung; He that hath diſtributed, and given to the Poore, his juſtice ſhall remaine from age to age, and his horne, (that is to ſay) his power ſhall bee exalted in glory) but it muſt bee performed with a judicious diſtribution, otherwiſe it will bee a confuſed ſcattering, rather then a charitable diſpoſing: And it may bee done to ſuch, as to whom to give were no better then to put a ſword into a madmans hand, or to give meanes to men to commit Riotous exceſſe: it is true that Vertue conſiſts in a meane, equally diſtant from erronious extreames:

and

and as to give inconſiderately, is rather a profuſe prodigality then a true liberality; ſo alſo to take heede of too many circumſtāces when one gives an Almes, argueth rather a pinching niggardlineſſe then a good judgement: And likewiſe, as wee muſt not too narrowly ſifte the qualities of thoſe perſons to whom we ſhew our Charity, ſo muſt wee not bee altogether blindefold in our gifts; And among theſe uncertainties, we muſt ſo frame our intentions, as not to conſider onely to whom we give, but alſo for whoſe ſake, even for his ſake who hath promiſed to requite the leaſt Alms given for the love of him. There are Iliades of hard hearts

which finde fault with the greateſt part of theſe poore creatures who beg of them. This man (ſay they) is ſtrong enough to gaine his living; that is a counterfeit, this not too old, that not too young, all are in their judgements unworthy; and this is onely to have in ſhew a juſt pretence to keepe in their purſe that metall (wherewith they make their Idoll) without purchaſing the name of covetouſneſſe: There bee others which have open hands, and more for honour then for pity give, or through pity caſt away indifferently to all, without conſidering that it is to nouriſh the laſineſſe of a great many vagabonds, who ſtand

more

more in need of a ſpirituall almes by a good rebuke, then of a temporall, which they abuſe in lewd and ſtrange deboiſtneſſe: But who can have a ſpirit ſo truly diſcerning, ſithence there is nothing in the world more deceiving then outward appearance. For example, there runne thorow the ſtreets of Towns, and thorow the Countreys, a multitude of vagabonds, who under the name of poore ſouldiers (that are going towards their own countrey) demand almes, when oft times ſuch are notorious theeves, who in begging ſeeke nothing more then fair occaſions to commit foule thefts, murders, pillage, and the like; theſe men have

God

God altogether in their mouthes, and the Devill in their hearts; and yet as God did heretofore draw fire out of the mud, when *Iſmael* returned from the Captivity of *Babylon*, ſo from among theſe Bandetti he retires one good theefe, as you may underſtand by that which enſueth.

Cyran paſſing thorow the ſtreets of *Tours* (which appeareth as a flower in the midſt of the garden of *France*) meets with a poore ſouldier, who though but meanly apparelled, yet kept ſtill a good countenance. This ſouldier demanded of him an almes, with ſuch a kinde of diſgracefull grace, that hee found himſelfe inwardly excited to give him one; but being extraordinarily

rily moved, he put his hand into his pocket, and thinking to have taken thence once Sol, he lighted on a pięce of five, which he with a good will gave him, and with words of honour and consolation, wiſheth him a good returne into his countrey, and a better Art then that of warre, where there is ordinarily nothing to bee gained but knockes: The ſouldier after a modeſt and civill manner anſwered, Sir God give me grace and power to doe you ſome good ſervice, conformable to the deſire I have thereunto: you have ſhewed mee your bounty in my pinching neceſſity, which I never ſhall be unmindfull of, for therein you have done little leſſe then ſaved

my

my life; after theſe words of Complement they parted. Some few dayes after the affaires which hindered this Poictevin at *Tours*, being finiſhed, he takes his leave, and thence returnes towards his Countrey; but as he croſſed a Wood, behold there ſuddenly ruſhed out three Theeves, whereof the one ſeazed on the Bridle of his Horſe, and another ſetting a ſword to his throat, commaunded him to alight and to follow them into the thickeſt of the Wood; a rude entertainement, and an imperious kinde of command, yet ſuch as muſt bee fulfilled; moſt commands preſuppoſing a neceſſity of obeying. When they had lead him into the moſt uncouth and

and obſcure part of the Wood, they there rifled him, and tooke from him all the Money that hee had, which amounted to the ſum of one hundred Crownes, or thereabouts; and having likewiſe deprived him of his Cloke and beſt Wares, they began to deliberate whether they ſhould kill him, or not? Let us ſaid one of them, I know (by his language) that hee is one of this Countrey, and therefore may raiſe Hue and Cry after us, and ſo diſcover us: 'Tis well ſaid (anſwered another) if ſuch men had killed him whom they ſtript in ſuch a Forreſt, they would not now have made ſo many wry mouthes upon a Gibbet at poor wearied paſſen-

passengers. The third (who was the man to whom *Cyran* had some few dayes before given the almes of five sols:) Companions said hee, what good will his life doe us, his bloud will cry louder against us for vengeance then his voyce: we shall have a Sermon, replyed one of the others, those that use the trade that we exercise, ought to stop their eares against these considerations, which are good for none but old men and children; the dead bite no more, neither doe they speake a word, the voyce of blood hath no eyes, and hee will bee well nigh rotten before any can possibly finde him in this place.

Friends (replyed the good Theefe)

Theefe) I beg of you his life, for it I will willingly forſake that part of the booty due unto me: I will tell you a very good courſe to ſpare his life, and yet to provide for our own ſafetie; let us binde him to ſome tree, and ſo leave him unto Gods protection, ſo we ſhall not bee defiled with his blood. This advice was by his earneſt perſwaſions followed, and *Cyran* was bound to a tree wth the headſtall of his horſe, and his own garters, the theeves taking away his horſe and furniture; but the good Theefe bowing himſelfe toward *Cyran*, (as if hee had beene buſied in tying him) ſaid ſoftly unto him, Friend take courage, I will come this night

to

to unbinde thee, I have not forgot thine almes; Comfortable words, but proceeding from the mouth of a Theefe, therefore not greatly to bee relied upon; yet hee made a vertue of neceſſity, and that hee might not ſeeme deſperately ungratefull, he thanks him for a benefit not yet received: thus he remaines faſt bound all the reſt of that day, truſting in the mercy and providence of God, and expecting the uncertaine event of the Purſe-takers moſt certaine promiſe: but at night he entred into the horrour of death, when in the duskeneſſe of the evening hee heard the yeelling and howling of the Wolves which were in that Forreſt; two of them were ſo bold as

to

to approach him, but having for a time viewed him, and being ſomewhat diſtruſtfull of their ſtrength they preſently retired, but it was not long before they returned with greater forces. This beaſt is not onely cruell, but alſo ſo ſubtile and cautelous, that even when men make curious invented Gins to catch them, yet can they very ſeldome take, or entrap any of them: This beaſt feares the ſtock of a Peece, hee ſhunneth ſnares, hee lookes about him, hee hearkens, conſiders, and narrowly obſerves the leaſt motions, all which is marvellous to be found in a beaſt that hath not reaſon. Poor *Cyran* thinking himſelfe to have now ſeen the laſt of his daies,

heartily

heartily recommended himſelfe to God, as a man that was at the point of yeelding up his Ghoſt; for they had long ſince ſented him, and now at length began to aſſaile him in troopes, endeavouring to make of him a Supper for themſelves: but ſuddenly, with moſt fearfull yeelling, they ſound a retreat, wherwith the whole Wood reſounded; and the Ecchoes multiplying, made *Cyran* thinke that there were a whole Legion of Wolves which came to devoure him: They had now perceived the approch of him whoſe comming poore *Cyran* had long expected; ſurely if his ſuccours had been delayed but a very little longer, his comming had been too late:

and

and it is likely hee ſhould have found poore *Cyran* diſmembred by the Wolves. But God, who ſendeth aide in tribulation, and whoſe aſſiſtance comes alwayes opportunely, ſent him at an inſtant (when his long expectation was turned almoſt into deſpaire) to deliver *Cyran* not only from the feare of death, but alſo from the death of feare; for already had terrour ſeazed on his heart, and he thought there was no way but inevitable and preſent death: but behold now the extreamity of one paſſion turned into another; Griefe and Deſpaire turned into Confidence and Joy, *Cyran* no ſooner ſaw him, but he became confident of his deſlivery; hee had na ſooner conceived

conceived this latter hope, but hee enjoyed his long deſired liberty by this good Theefe his willingly unty-ing thoſe knots which hee had before ſo unwillingly knit. I leave it to you to judge, with what exceſſive words he teſtified his thank-fulneſſe to the good Theefe, who had in one day given him his life twice; firſt from retyring him from the throat of thoſe roaring lions the other Theeves, and ſecondly from the ravening Wolves, who are Theeves living up-on prey. *Cyran* was deſi-rous to make him ſome part of requitall for this great benefit; and the better to expreſſe his deſire, hee offers the Souldier to uſe him as his brother, if hee would

but

but reſide with him, and forſake that miſerable kinde of life, which could not but leade him to a very ſhamefull end, and would give him ſo much of his eſtate as hee ſhould have juſt cauſe to bee contented therewith. To leave this courſe of Robbing (replyed the Souldier) is my full reſolution, I have long ſince inwardly conceived ſuch an earneſt hatred thereof, that it continually ſeemes an hell unto me: My intent is to become religiouſly penitent for thoſe many miſchiefes which I have wrought in following this accurſed miſtery: I never in all my life killed any man, but have beene preſent at divers murthers, I began to Rob, being preſt thereunto by

by neceſſity; but continued in it through a kinde of wicked pleaſure that there is in taking, although it ſerved but to feed our unlimitted deboiſtneſſe: now finding no ſure place of rétreat in *France*, where I am alway in danger of the Law, I am reſolved to paſſe into *Italie*, and having viſited *Loretto* and *Rome*, to caſt my ſelfe into ſome religious houſe; and if I cannot bee there admitted, to retire my ſelfe into ſome Hermitage. I humbly intreat you to pray unto God for mee that hee may continue in me his inſpiration, and give me grace to execute this good deſigne. This poore Theefe thinking that the curteſie already done unto *Cyran*, had not extended

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unto a full requitall for his former Charity, laboured to perſwade him to accept of his part of the hundred Crownes which was taken from him; freely offering unto him a hundred Franks. But *Cyran* not onely refuſed it, but freely forgiving him, proteſted that if hee would take the paines to accompany him to the next Towne, he would inlarge his bounty towards him.

The penitent Souldier (for I make it a matter of Conſcience to call him Theefe after ſo godly a change) either miſtruſting a ſubtilty in the Offer, or being fully ſatisfied for what he had done, (refuſing it) heartily thanked him, and after their mutuall imbracements having

made a mixture of their teares: *Cyran* took one way, and the Souldier the other, whom hee never ſaw after. But the two others he ſaw about two moneths after, being diſcovered by the Cloke and horſe of *Cyran*, and being accuſed of other Robberies, fell into the hands of the Provoſt Marſhall, who juſtly gave them a quick diſpatch, they being faſtened to the Bough of an accurſed tree, commonly called a Gibbet, where they never deſcended but by the pendant.

The good ſucceſſe of Alms ſhines with ſuch luſtre in this Relation, that if there were no other motive to exerciſe liberality towards the needy, then that centuple which is in the Scripture promiſed

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in this life, it were ſufficient to draw it from the hands of Covetouſnes it ſelfe, ſithence there is no uſury ſo exceſſive as to take a hundred for one: to which, if you adde the infinite worth of eternall life, who will be ſo hidebound as not to give with a free will that NOTHING, or flitting toy of things tranſitory, to attaine unto that great ALL, and that one neceſſary thing, moſt bleſſed ETERNITY.

FINIS.